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Board places first operating levy in three years on June ballot

BY PRIYA KRISHNAN
Staff Reporter

The Board of Education voted at its February meeting to place the first operating levy in three years on the June ballot.

The 9.8 mill levy would generate funds that are necessary to maintain the current level of programming in the school district, according to Superintendent Mark Freeman.

"This levy ensures adequate financial support for existing and future programs for an additional two years," said District Treasurer Daniel Wilson.

Without the levy, school district revenues will not be sufficient to pay current costs, Wilson said.

"It is very hard for school systems in Ohio to generate funds; we have to depend on levies," Freeman said.

The Citizens' Finance Review Committee, a group of six local business people, reviewed the district's expense projections and affirmed the need for additional funds, he said.

The district's operating costs will increase at an average rate of six or seven percent annually, while current revenue is increasing by less than one percent, according to Judith Stenta, vice president of the school board.

"The levy will keep us going for at least two years," Wilson said.

"Aggressive" cost-saving operations, totalling more than \$2.3 million, have already been implemented by the school board, Stenta said. However, she said these measures are not sufficient to maintain costs without sacrificing the quality of education.

"There has always been a close monitoring of expenses, and we have taken many cost saving measures," Stenta said.

The district receives 84.5 percent of its revenue from taxes, according to Wilson. He added that the district also received an increase of only one-half of one percent of the annual operating costs from the recent property reappraisal.

Another factor contributing to the necessity of the levy is House Bill 920, a state law which limits the school's automatic revenue growth to less than one percent a year, Wilson said.

"When Shaker residents vote on a levy, they are voting for a frozen dollar amount which does not increase with inflation. It's the main culprit of having a levy," he said.

A levy is expected to be put on the ballot every 22 months and this one has been pro-

longed for almost three years, according to Freeman.

"We tried to prolong it as much as we could because we are very sensitive to the effect of a levy in the community," Stenta said.

According to board figures, only 21.3 percent of Shaker homes have children attending schools. The Citizens Committee for the Shaker Schools relies on factors like the increase in home values to attract the votes of the other 78.7 percent of residents, Committee Chair Carol Lowenthal said.

"We talk about property value, but people are interested in good public education. When they know about the schools, they have a sense of pride in the community. All communities should support their school systems," Lowenthal said.

Freeman said that the district offers accountability for the taxpayers' money by standardized test scores, awards received by students, graduation rates and college admissions.

"We have reasonable ways to measure accountability. Shaker schools are still among the best in the country," he said.

According to Stenta, board members remain optimistic about the levy passing, despite the fact that less than half of school levies are passing statewide.

"We hope it passes, but if it doesn't we will put it back on the ballot in August. We'll go back and persuade more people to vote for it," she said.

If the levy fails to pass, dramatic budget cuts are expected, Wilson said.

"There would be a deficit of \$1.6 million which is a significant part of our budget," Wilson said.

Though state law would mandate cuts in programs to balance the district's budget, specific ones have not been decided on, Stenta said.

"We stayed clear

of itemizing or prioritizing any programs. We make no threats and just try to have a positive presentation," she said.

Many school employees are in favor of the levy.

"I think the levy is extremely important for our schools. I believe in the quality of education that we provide here. I work here and I'm proud of it," high school nurse Evelyn Wisham said.

Others feel the school board should be more cost efficient.

"If you accept the figures provided by the Board, the levy is very important to maintain quality of education, but I think the dollar should be spent more efficiently," economics teacher Sal Fabrizio said.

Many students were uninformed about the levy, however those that were said they supported it.

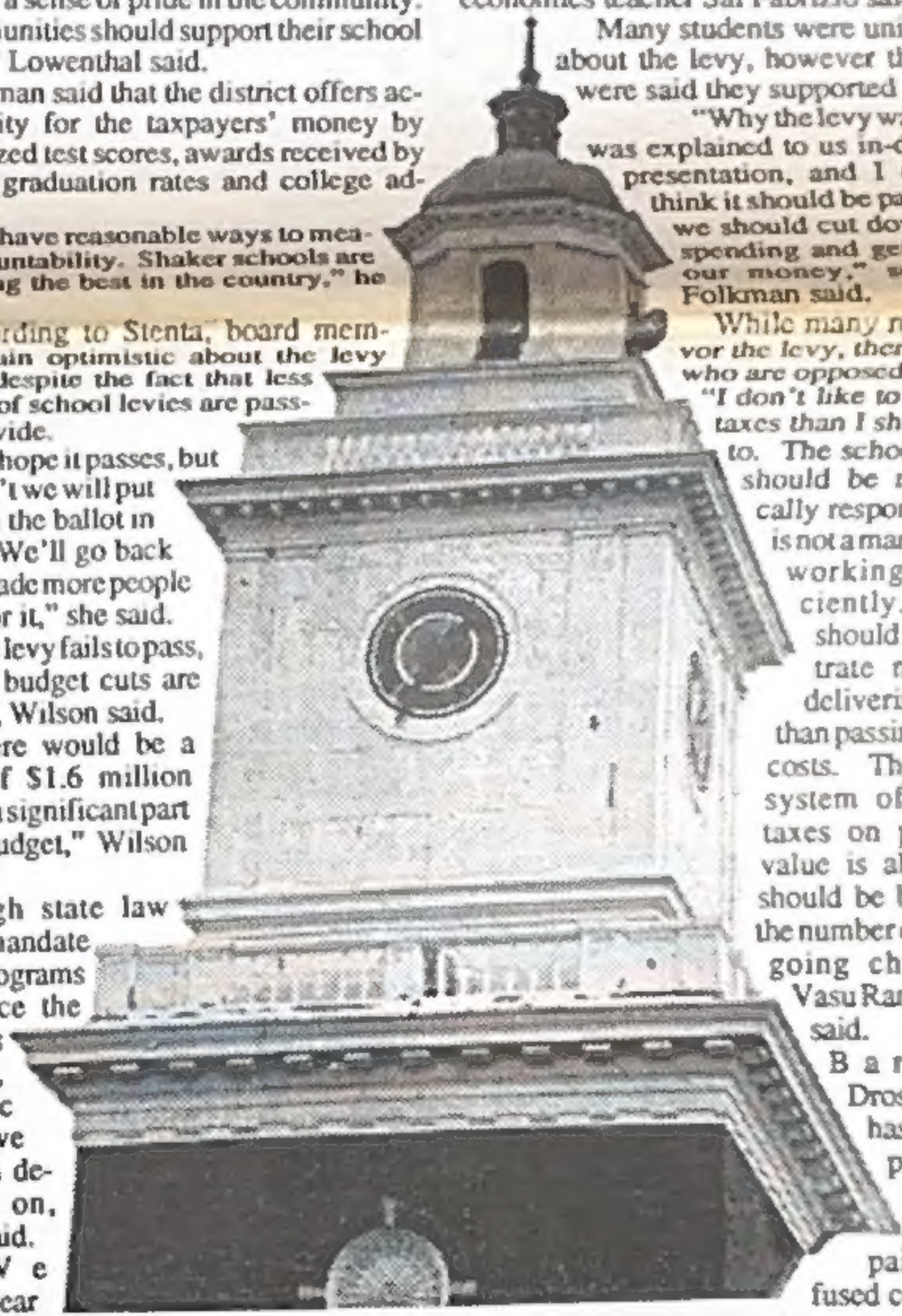
"Why the levy was needed was explained to us in-depth at a presentation, and I definitely think it should be passed. But we should cut down on our spending and get more for our money," senior Ted Folkman said.

While many residents favor the levy, there are some who are opposed to it.

"I don't like to pay more taxes than I should have to. The school district should be more fiscally responsible. It is not a market place working efficiently. They should concentrate more on delivering value than passing on the costs. The whole system of basing taxes on property value is absurd, it should be based on the number of school going children,"

Vasu Ramanujam said.

Barbara Drossin, who has opposed previous levy campaigns, refused comment.



Tax Talk: What will the levy mean?

■ Why does the school board want to pass this levy?

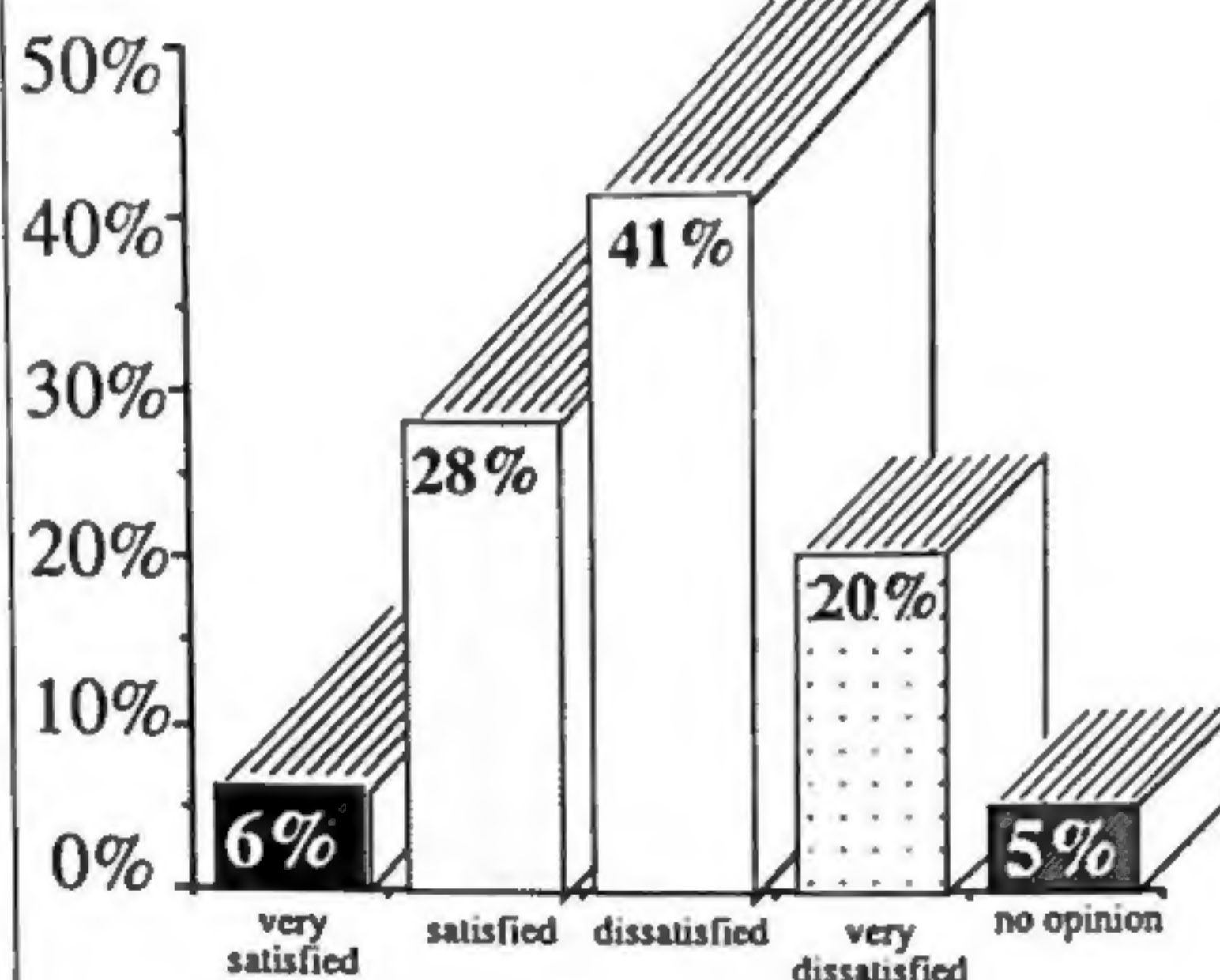
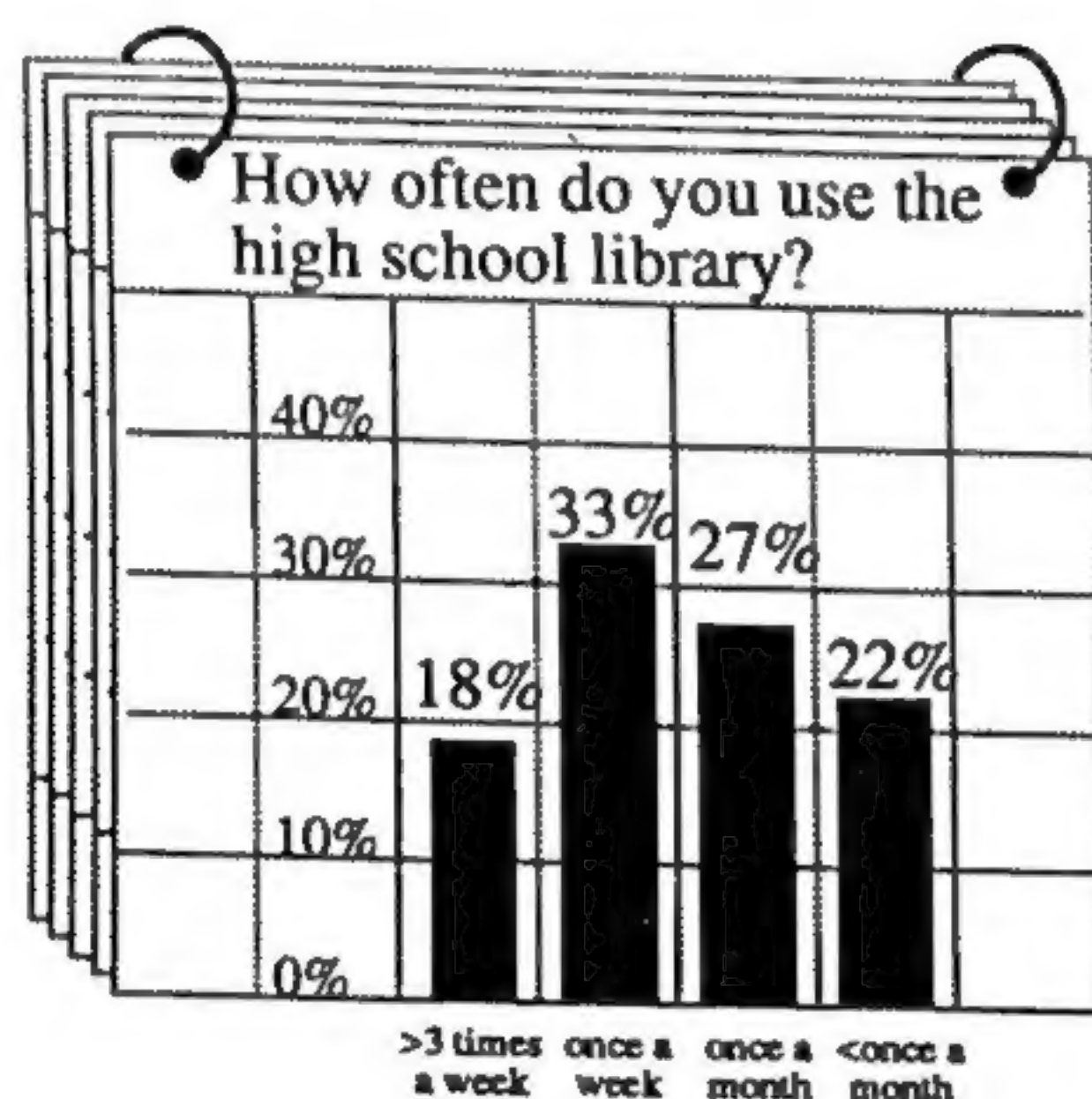
- \$ A levy will insure financial support for existing programs for another two years.
- \$ The district only receives 12.5 percent of its income from the state and three percent from other sources. It must draw the rest from taxes.
- \$ Passing the levy is likely to maintain Shaker's rising housing values. Since 1989, the district cites an average value increase of 26.7 percent.

■ Why do some citizens oppose the levy?

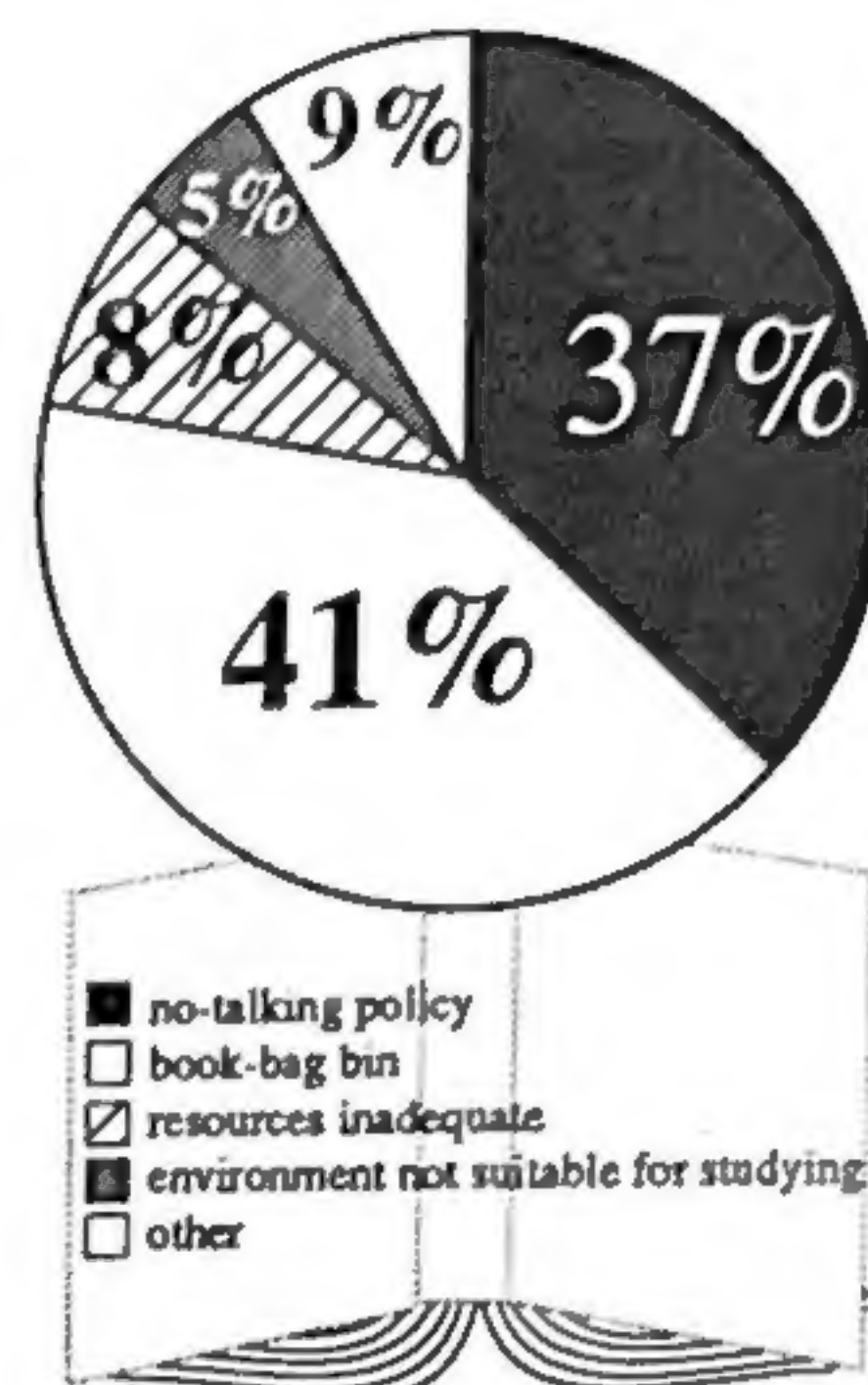
- \$ Shaker's tax rate of 121.1 mills is the highest in the state.
- \$ Some residents say the district should manage its money more efficiently.
- \$ Some residents say it is inappropriate to request an additional tax when the economy is yet to recover from a recession.

Students dislike library policies, survey says

Source: Shakerite survey of 250 people
Graphics by Kathryn Schulz



Please evaluate your level of satisfaction with the high school library.



If you are dissatisfied with the library, why?

Seniors prepare for last dance

BY NANOR TABRIZI
Staff Reporter

High school is often remembered by the friends, heavy course loads, football games, and most of all, prom. However, many seniors are concerned that their prom memories will be marred by problems such as the high cost of prom night, the anxiety of finding a date, and student-related drinking and driving accidents.

Several seniors are intimidated by the high price of the prom night. According to senior Dan Babbitt, the \$40 couple's ticket, tuxedo and dress expenses, dinner, and the after-prom activities are the worst parts of prom night for many seniors.

According to senior class treasurer Terri Davis, the senior prom will be funded primarily by ticket sales, but will also include profits from senior T-shirt sales and food sold in the senior social room. Plans for a car wash are also being discussed.

According to senior class president Dana Goodman, finding a date for prom still poses a problem for many seniors.

"Asking for dates is difficult for many people and a lot of feelings get hurt. But other kids find asking for a prom date to be easier because they figure that they probably won't see that person again after that year," Goodman said.

Senior Michelle Wilson regrets that seniors can't go alone and that many get excluded from their own prom because they can't find a date.

Some seniors feel that if they did not go to prom, it would cause a great deal of embarrassment.

"Your friends expect you to go to prom so you go whether you really want to or not. Otherwise, [your friends] might laugh at you because they assume that you couldn't find a date," senior Jonathan Perkins said.

Another anticipated problem of prom night is the possibility of drinking and driving by students. Despite the fact that Shaker is not involved in the Prom Promise, and activity that many schools take part in to avoid the consequences of drinking and driving, senior will be discouraged from taking chances with alcohol in an assembly on May 7.

According to 12th grade assistant principal Desadre Lawson, the lack of drug and alcohol problems in past proms is due to the fact that seniors are forewarned.

However, some seniors feel that warnings about student drinking and driving are ineffective.

"Just telling us not to drink won't help unless people listen. A lot of times, the information goes in one ear and out the other," Perkins said.

Wilson agreed that warnings are ineffective but stated that little could be done by parents to stop kids from drinking on prom night.

"They've been telling us not to drink and drive since the sixth grade. Telling us one more time won't make a difference," she said.

Lawson hopes that heavy security, vis-

ible adult chaperones, and limousine rentals will also deter students from drinking and help them to concentrate more on having fun.

According to Davis, the best thing about prom is the fact that everyone is seen at their best in formal dress. The location of the dance, the Natural History Museum, which will be reserved for the seniors, also makes prom night special.

"The senior prom is special because it is usually the last celebration that friends have together," Babbitt said.

According to Wilson, the prom night is significant because it provides one of the only chances for friends to say goodbye during the chaotic time surrounding graduation.

The after-prom activity is another event that distinguishes prom from other dances.

This year's after-prom activity organized by parents will be held at the Jewish Community Center in Beachwood and will feature the theme of Casino Royale Night. The reggae band First Light will perform. The D.J. at the prom will be Doc Reno from WJMO-FM.

According to senior class vice president Betsy Werbel, most students will attend the parent organized after-prom activity despite other possible student-organized activities which may occur simultaneously.

"I want to go to the (parent-organized) after-prom because I've heard a lot of good things about past Casino Nights. I've heard that a lot of good prizes are given away," senior Jonathan Perkins said.

Thirteen qualify for state history competition

BY CARRIE LYONS
Staff Reporter

Thirteen students will participate in the state competition of this year's National History Day contest on May 9 at Case Western Reserve University.

In the contest, sponsored by The National Endowment for the Humanities, students explore different historical themes each year. Entries may be performance, acting, dance, formal writing or media, according to social studies department head Terry Pollack.

The district contest was held April 11 at Cuyahoga Community College. The top winners in each of the seven categories will compete at the state level with a chance to advance to the national competition June 14-18 at the University of Maryland.

Many students are excited about the possibility of competing nationally.

"Since the competition is a lot tougher at the state level, our group will have to improve our presentation to have a chance to get to the nationals, but the result will be worth it," junior Sarah Cohen said.

Cohen and juniors Kim Butler and Kate Isard entered a group performance about American Indians, relating it to this year's topic of "Discovery, Encounter, Exchange in History: The Seeds of Change."

"Even though it was hard work, it was a lot of fun. I learned a lot about the Indians and how to research a project," Cohen said.

Junior Scott Frerichs agreed on the value of the History Day experience.

"It was fun to work in a group setting. It was also worthwhile to coordinate three people's ideas into one finished product," Frerichs said.

Frerichs and juniors Ari Chopra and Jon Kliegman, entered a computer program on the changes General MacArthur made in Japan during World War II.

Other winners were juniors Jeremy Paris, Dan Ratner, Jodi Wilkoff, Kim Weisman and Clay Weiner, who entered a newspaper on the Spanish-American War, and junior Jeremy Liegl and sophomore Rebecca Davis who each wrote in-depth papers.

Lecture features award-winning writer

BY EMILY TROIA
Staff Reporter

It was not a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day for those attending the Shaker lecture given by author Judith Viorst this year. Viorst gave the lecture Monday evening in connection with the Ninth Annual Shaker Lecture series.

Having three children helped Viorst write about issues that "come up in kids' lives". Viorst says she tries to write about what are in children's lives today.

Viorst said that she tried to deal with issues that are hard for parents to explain to children. Viorst says she tries to write in a way that children can understand.

"I put messages in my stories in an oblique

way. You can't preach to children," Viorst said. Viorst said that when writing she taps into the child within her.

"I think it's a source of pleasure and refreshment to be in touch with the child inside me," Viorst said.

Viorst writes for adults as well as children. She has written seven books of poetry as well as *Necessary Losses*, which was a bestseller for more than a year.

Viorst said she does not think her writing for children is so different from her adult writing.

"I think of myself as an author who always writes the same thing; what people are thinking," Viorst said.

Viorst said one of the most important things for a writer to have is discipline. She said when

she is teaching writing it is the thing she emphasizes the most.

"I think you can have all the talent in the world, but if you can't make yourself go to your word processor or pad then you can't be a writer. You have to have discipline to just do it," Viorst said.

Viorst also stressed the importance of reading. She described herself as a passionate reader. Reading, she said, can enlarge one's world and points of reference.

Thinking is another important aspect of writing, according to Viorst. She said that writing invites one to do a lot of thinking.

"I think that good thinking makes for good writing. When writing for people, I have had to do a lot of thinking," Viorst said.

Bill to alter diplomas

BY JAMIL SMITH
Co-News Editor

The signing of Substitute House Bill 55 by Governor George Voinovich will mandate the elimination of the leveled high school diploma and the certificate of attendance, the establishment of fourth grade proficiency tests, and the maintaining of the ninth and 12th grade tests, according to an April 21 faculty bulletin from Principal Jack Rumbaugh.

Instead of the former diplomas, which were to be given out to students graduating in 1994 and later in the levels of certificate of attendance, basic competency, distinction, and commendation, a "basic high school diploma" and an "honors diploma" will be established. The ninth and 12th grade proficiency tests, which provide the basis for diploma leveling, will be maintained, while the current mandates for the current fourth, sixth, and eighth Otis Lennon Tests will be altered. The 10th grade Otis Lennon Test will be eliminated in both public and private schools.

The 12th grade tests will only be allowed to be administered between Jan. 1 and March 15. The capacity in which the 12th grade test is to be used is undetermined, but it is suspected to be used in relation to the new "honors diploma."

Rumbaugh was pleased that the changes were made concerning the leveled diplomas.

"I am much more pleased with Substitute House Bill 55 than Senate Bill 140 (that mandated the four different types of diplomas)," he said. "I think that it is a step in the right direction."

However, some administrators disagreed

with any type of leveling for high school diplomas.

"Every student who has satisfactorily completed the requirements for a high school diploma deserves to receive that diploma on an equal basis with everyone else," academic advisor Mary Lynne McGovern. "Even though some students achieve on a higher level than others, everyone who satisfies the requirements is entering the next phase of his or her life on an equal plane."

The bill mandates a new fourth grade proficiency test to be first administered in the 1993-1994 school year. The test will be given once a year on or after March 15. If students fail one or more of the tests, the bill mandates that the schools must create their own intervention services to test them again.

Science will be added to the skill areas already being tested, math, citizenship, reading comprehension, and composition, in the 1994-1995 school year. This will apply to the fourth, ninth, and 12th grade tests.

Rumbaugh expressed pleasure at the new additions to the proficiency test system.

"I am pleased that they are adding science and initiating a fourth grade test," Rumbaugh said.

The State Department of Education is now allowed to enter into "reciprocal" agreements with other states that also have mandated proficiency tests due to the bill. Students who have passed such tests in other states and later move to Ohio will be exempt from Ohio's testing program. Previously, such students graduating in 1994 or later would have had to pass all of the tests again.

Also, the State Department is allowed, but not mandated, to select another grade between fourth and ninth grade in which another set of proficiency tests can be given.



EXPLORING EUROPE. Six students and French teacher Lynne Shima pose in front of a chateau in the Loire Valley in France over spring break. These students toured France at the same time as eight students and Spanish teacher Antonio Otero toured Spain. The two trips were organized through the high school and private companies. Those pictured are (from left to right): juniors Jodi Wilkoff, Lauren Patterson, and Jason Cohen, senior Amy Minkowetz, junior Jamil Smith, former Shaker student Stephanie Martin, Shima, and junior Carlie Kombluth.

Photo courtesy of Jamil Smith

New staff named for 92-93

The editorial and managerial staff of the Shakerite has been appointed for the 92-93 school year.

Juniors Jeremy Paris and Blane Sims will be serving as co-editors in chief. Dan Ratner, a junior, will serve as managing editor. The business manager will be junior Tiona Martin. Juniors Jamil Smith and Nanor Tabrizi will be editors of the news pages, and junior Jeff Epstein will edit the opinion and columns pages. The centerpiece editors will be sophomore Joshua Goodman and junior Nanor Tabrizi. Junior

Andrew Ellner will edit the Entertainment and Spotlight pages. Rebecca Davis, a sophomore, will edit the feature pages, and junior Mark Smith will be the sports editor. Juniors I-Huei Go and Clay Weiner will serve as the art and graphics editors, and junior Jason Hamilton will be the photography editor. Joel VanArsdale, a junior, will continue as advertising manager, and junior Heidi Jacobson will join the staff as circulation and exchange manager.

The June issue of the Shakerite will be edited and published by the 92-93 staff.

Hmm...

Tired of wondering what's going on in Shaker?

When's prom?

Should I vote for the levy?

Who won that Lacrosse game?

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Shakerite

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Choir Room Bulletin Board

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Levy key to maintaining district quality

Complaining about school is a popular thing to do. It is fashionable to say that school doesn't teach you anything, to find fault with every administrative action and policy, or to say that Shaker's facilities, sports or programs are poor. However, the record clearly demonstrates such an attitude to be an overstatement of the problems. No, Shaker is not perfect, but it is better than nearly anywhere else—a fact even those students who complain about the school will grudgingly admit when confronted with the evidence. On June 2, the voters in this community are being asked to pass a 9.8 mill operating levy and it is in the best interest of every student and every homeowner to see that this levy, steep as it may appear, is passed.

The district treasurer's office predicts that if the levy is not passed, Shaker will have a deficit of \$1.6 million growing to an eventual \$14 million deficit by 1995-96 if no further revenue raising measures are taken. Because state law prohibits a school district from functioning with a deficit, the district treasurer and members of the Citizen's Committee for the Shaker Schools acknowledge that drastic cuts would have to be made in services and programming.

Although these officials say that they do not wish to consider the possibility of such cuts until it becomes absolutely necessary, be assured that they would profoundly effect the core of what makes Shaker a unique and top-ranked school district. All those who have enjoyed participating in sports, theatre, the music programs or any other extracurricular activity, might soon see these special opportunities to learn, grow and have fun outside the classroom disappear. All

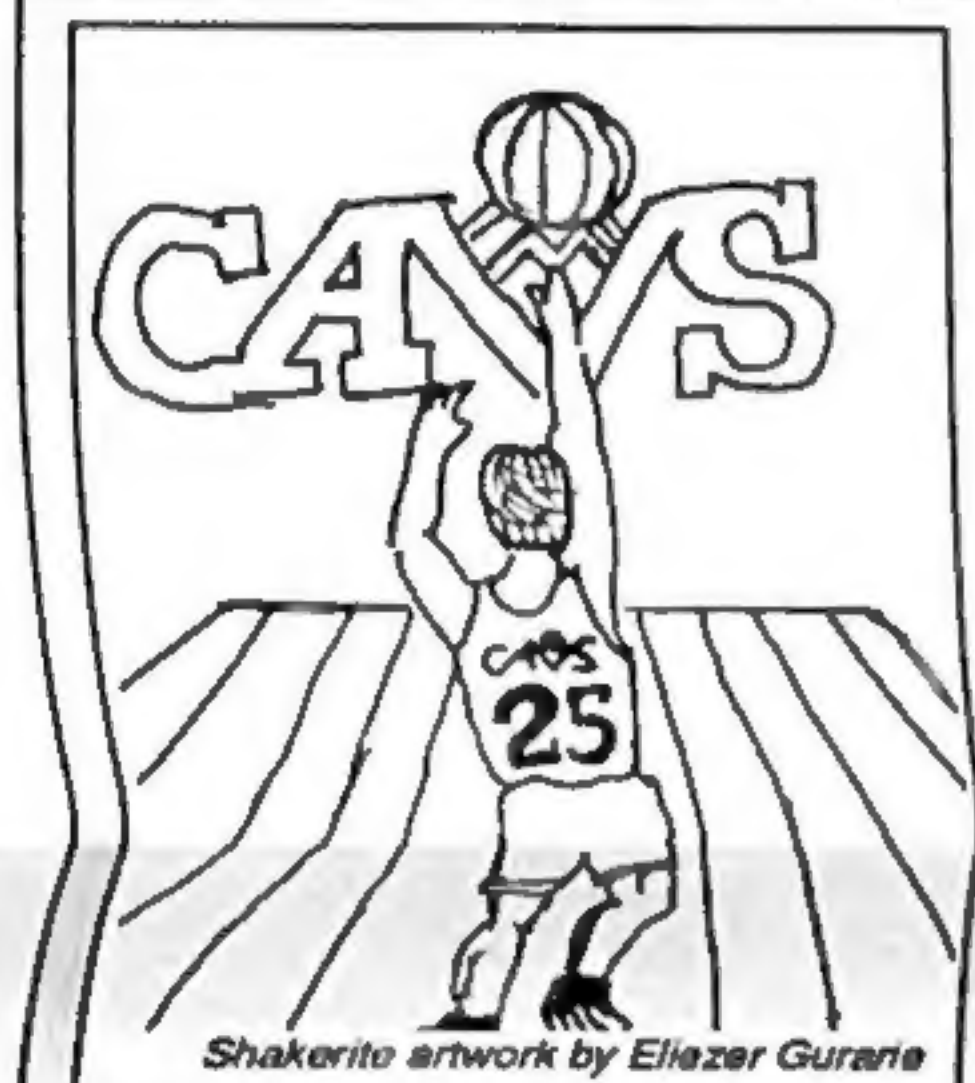
those who have enjoyed attending athletic events or performances, or even (God forbid) reading The Shakerite, might see these luxuries vanish. Life would be pretty boring without the great diversity of activities and special learning opportunities which the district currently supports.

The quality of life in this community in general is itself linked to the quality of the school system. Property values are influenced to a large extent by the reputation of the local school district. According to county records, over the last 3 years, property values in Shaker have risen 26.7 percent, the highest increase of any of the surrounding eastern suburbs, including Beachwood, Orange and Chagrin Falls. Since 1979, housing values have risen 150 percent in comparison with a 54

percent increase in the property tax rate. That means that buying a house in Shaker is a better investment than purchasing a residence anywhere else, and this is in some degree due to the school district. Certainly, the reputation of the school district would suffer if drastic cuts have to be made, and housing values might then show a corresponding decline. Therefore, even adults in Shaker without children in the schools will feel the effects of the levy not passing.

Voting for this levy makes sense for both parents and homeowners, and graduating seniors of voting age have a responsibility to future generations of students to see that the quality of education and programming which they enjoyed is continued. The increased millage should not be considered a burden, but an investment in the future.

RITE IDEA



Shakerite artwork by Eliezer Gurarie

Cheers to the seniors leaving for senior project in a week.

Jeers to five more weeks for the rest of us.

Jeers to SAT's.

CHEERS & JEERS

Jeers to the Indians. They've taken incompetence to new levels.

Cheers to Shaker's district History Day winners. Good luck at states!

Cheers to the Earth.

Jeers to the Garth Brooks special on NBC.

Cheers to the Shakerite's new staff which takes over next year and to the old staff for another great year.

Jeers to superficiality.

Cheers to the Cavs! By the time this comes out they are sure to have won their 1st playoff series since 1976.

Jeers to being governed by politicians.



Shakerite artwork by Eliezer Gurarie

Cheers to the recycling bins in the cafeteria.

Jeers to people who throw trash into the recycling bins in the cafeteria.

Shakerite

Volume 62 Issue 7

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Letters to the editor must be signed and may not exceed 250 words. Letters, subscription and advertising inquiries should be delivered to the Shakerite office in Room 224, or mailed to: The Shakerite, 15911 Aldersyde Drive, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120. The Shakerite reserves the right to edit or reject any letter to the editor or advertisement.

Opinions expressed in Shakerite articles are those of their respective authors, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Shakerite, Shaker Heights High School, or the Shaker Heights City School District. The "Rite Idea" presents the views of the editorial board; however, it may not reflect the opinion of the Shakerite staff.

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SATs complicated process

BY JEFF EPSTEIN
Staff Reporter

It is 8:00 AM on a Saturday morning, and you are sitting in the Purple Palace, the Shaker cafeteria, with three freshly sharpened pencils and a thick test booklet on your desk.

What situation is this, you may ask? Some call it the Scholastic Aptitude Test, but I call it torture.

My SAT experience began when my parents began whining about college about three months ago.

"You really should do something to bring up those verbal scores from the PSAT," they constantly nagged.

Fine. I enrolled in a course to improve my testing. The first thing I was taught was to forget everything that I already know about a subject when doing a reading comprehension passage.

Wait a minute.

These things are to get us into college, right? They're to test our so-called "scholastic aptitude"? Well, how silly of me to think that anything we learned in school could possibly be on these tests.

The next thing I learned at my SAT class was not to do the verbal section in the correct order. I should do antonyms, then analogies, then sentence completion, and then reading comprehension.

Oh, I guess it was silly of us to try taking the test in the right order. I sure am glad I decided to take this course.

Well, after a few sessions of SAT preparation, I felt ready to take on the challenge. I

went to the guidance office to sign up for the test, only to learn that I had missed the deadline by a day.

Oops.

I learned that in order to register late, I would have to send in a bribe to the College Board, and they would let me take the test. This brought the total cost of the SAT to around \$30. After emptying my wallet, I expected a full breakfast buffet and table to table coffee service. After all, \$30 is a lot of money.

I laid in bed awake at midnight the night before the test, dreaming of little SAT circles floating around, and asking myself what would happen if I used a number three pencil.

I fell out of bed the next morning and went to school. As I was waiting in the hallway outside the cafeteria for the proctors to arrive, I smelled something. I turned around to see a huge, fat kid with flies buzzing around his head wiping his nose on his jacket sleeve.

"Please, don't make me sit next to him," I prayed.

Needless to say, the proctor arrived, opened the door, we flowed in, and my friend the behemoth sat behind me. Whenever it seemed I was right in the middle of a tricky math problem, he would, without fail, sneeze and cough loudly and make an obnoxious snoring noise.

So there I was in the midst of a test, which, according to many, could shape my life dramatically, in a room with purple carpeting, and with Andre the Giant sneezing up organs behind me.

I can't think of a better way to spend a Saturday morning, can you?

Direction of mankind's future lies in the present

PERSPECTIVE

BY JEREMY PARIS

Opinion & Columns Editor

I am the confident young man who is moving steadily toward becoming an adult, yet I am the scared child afraid of a world gone mad and hiding in its shadows, understanding little of its strange ways.

I am alive in the greatest era of human history, yet I am alive in the same century that has seen the greatest wars and atrocities humanity has ever known.

The world holds so much promise for us and it holds so much destruction. Our scientists have cured the once incurable, yet they have created the atomic bomb.

The potential for human rights and true equality exists for the first time ever, yet four times this century genocide has been attempted.

Communication is nearly instantaneous, yet we remain so far apart from each other, letting hatred and misunderstanding guide us.

We live in a century that has seen a man walk on the moon and we live in a time in which we are destroying the environment of our world.

We live in the greatest country this world ever produced, yet our infant mortality rate is that of a third world nation. We treat our children like we treat our garbage, with disregard and abuse.

Our country can feed the world many times over, yet half of the world is starving.

More people have been killed by other people this century than in any other in human history. It is hard not to shed a tear when remembering the suffering that has existed and still exists.

The world is a beautiful and an evil place. By some ~~fluke of nature~~, this world has evolved an intelligent animal. By a failure all our own, that animal may destroy both itself and the world that spawned it.

As a people, we spend too much time with our own petty needs and desires. We say that we care about others, but few of us show that we do. The huge bureaucracy that is our government has long since stopped caring about or being a vehicle for its people.

Sometimes I look at the world and I feel so sad. I see people all over the world hungry and suffering and oppressed and I do not know how to help them. Other times,



Shakerite artwork by Kathryn Schulz

I look at the world and I feel scared; scared of what could happen to me and what could happen to the world.

I wonder how the world got to be how it is and I am angry at the generations preceding mine for creating new problems while trying to solve others. Although I marvel at much of the life around me, I am also frustrated by it. I am frustrated that our problems, however solvable, rest that lay within us.

I do not want to preach morals or ideology or beliefs. I am only presenting the world as I see it. We can now move onwards or we can now move backwards. It is a choice we will have to make for the future of humanity and the long years of its past.

We are at a crossroads of history. We can continue our destruction or we can continue our progress toward peace. We can continue killing each other or we can help each other live.

Every person has right to choose sexual preference

To the Editor:

I am a student who has recently read your article on homosexuality. I found it very interesting, but some of the polls astounded me.

I see that a lot of people find it hard to accept that a person is a homosexual or "gay" as some say. I feel that a person's personal sexual choice is his/her business. If a person's sexual preference is for the same sex, does it make that person any less human? No.

Everyone is different in his/her own way. Everyone does something that may not be accepted by everyone else. If someone doesn't like your hairdo or hair color, or the way you dress you can just go on about your business as usual. You may get a couple of funny looks and that's it. But on the other hand, if someone doesn't approve of your sexual preference, you get called names and are considered an outcast; and these are just the minor things. I have witnessed people's lives being threatened, people being beaten and put through so much "hell" that they have suffered from severe mental disfunctions all because they are homosexual.

What I am trying to stress is that people should be aware of others' feelings. It doesn't make anyone less human to be different.

Toni Eddings, sophomore

Library designed for silent, independent study

To the editor:

Re: The letters which have appeared in the last two Shakerites concerning the library's quiet policy.

C'mon guys, give us a break here! Do you really think that we'd go around shushing you in an effort to keep the

peace if it weren't absolutely necessary? Honestly, we'd love to let you work together to your heart's content, but we've found, based on previous years' experience that: 1) students who are talking are neither reading nor writing, and 2) the vast majority of Shaker students do want at least one quiet place in the building in which to work. You can't argue with the facts, folks. The library is not a social center. We ask for your help in maintaining quiet simply because we care so deeply about your academic success. We want to help each of you find the materials you need—we want to help each of you learn and think. "NO TALKING, INDEPENDENT WORK ONLY," is posted on the library door. The study hall sheets and rules posted inside the library reiterate that "SHHS maintains a silent library for independent work only." Please help us all you mature young adults. It's lonely being the library "police."

Kelly Jons and Lois Kaplan, librarians

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Students divided about necessity of curfew

To the editor:

In response to the curfew article, I feel a curfew for kids 17 and 18 is not necessary. The reason for my opinion is that those individuals are old enough to decide whether or not to come in, especially the 18 year olds. After all they are adults. Therefore they should be treated as such. I mean they're going to have to start to learn responsibility sooner or later. That is if they don't have the responsibility already. As for the kids 14 to 16, they should have a curfew. After all they are

still young. I feel their curfew should be at least 9:30 p.m. and should be adjustable if the child has done exceptionally well that afternoon at home. I feel this way because a child's curfew should be judged by his or her age, not with other children's curfews in the home.

Stacy Savol, sophomore

To the editor:

I feel that curfew is necessary because it keeps the violence off the street. I think teenagers should be in the house between 1 o'clock and 5 o'clock. It makes no sense to be out there at that time anyway. They can get hurt, robbed or anything for that matter. Also the police don't have to pressure us kids to be in the house at 11:00. Some police ride up on us and make us go home even if we are on the corner of our street. It is not necessary to do that. I think it is necessary to get the ones that they see starting trouble off the streets. Because one bad person shouldn't spoil the whole bunch. Everybody shouldn't have to be punished for someone else's troubles.

Tarshia Bobbit, junior

Condom dispensers are needed in school

To the editor:

I feel that our high school should install dispenser machines for condoms. High school students are embarrassed to go into stores to purchase them from adults. This would be a more discreet way to purchase them. If more students would purchase and use condoms, there would be less teenage pregnancy and less sexually transmitted diseases such as AIDS.

If the students are going to engage in sexual activity, at least let it be safe. This could help teach the students to become more responsible about their sexual activity without making a 9 pound, 10 ounce error or a fatal mistake.

Joachim Bustamante, junior

THE TOP TEN

Worst movies adapted from books...

The non-losing entry, submitted by Evan Makela and Chris Jones

10. Building English Skills: The Movie
9. The Webster's Dictionary Saga
8. The Yellow Pages Trilogy
7. Encyclopedia Britannica Vol. "Q"
6. TI-81 Graphics Calculator Guidebook
5. Jane Eyre
4. Louis Leithold's The Calculus with Analytic Geometry
3. Fodor's guide to Akron, "The rubber capitol of the world"
2. The National Zip Code Directory

...and the #1 worst movie...

1. Final Exit: The Suicide Video

Fitness tough for body, ego

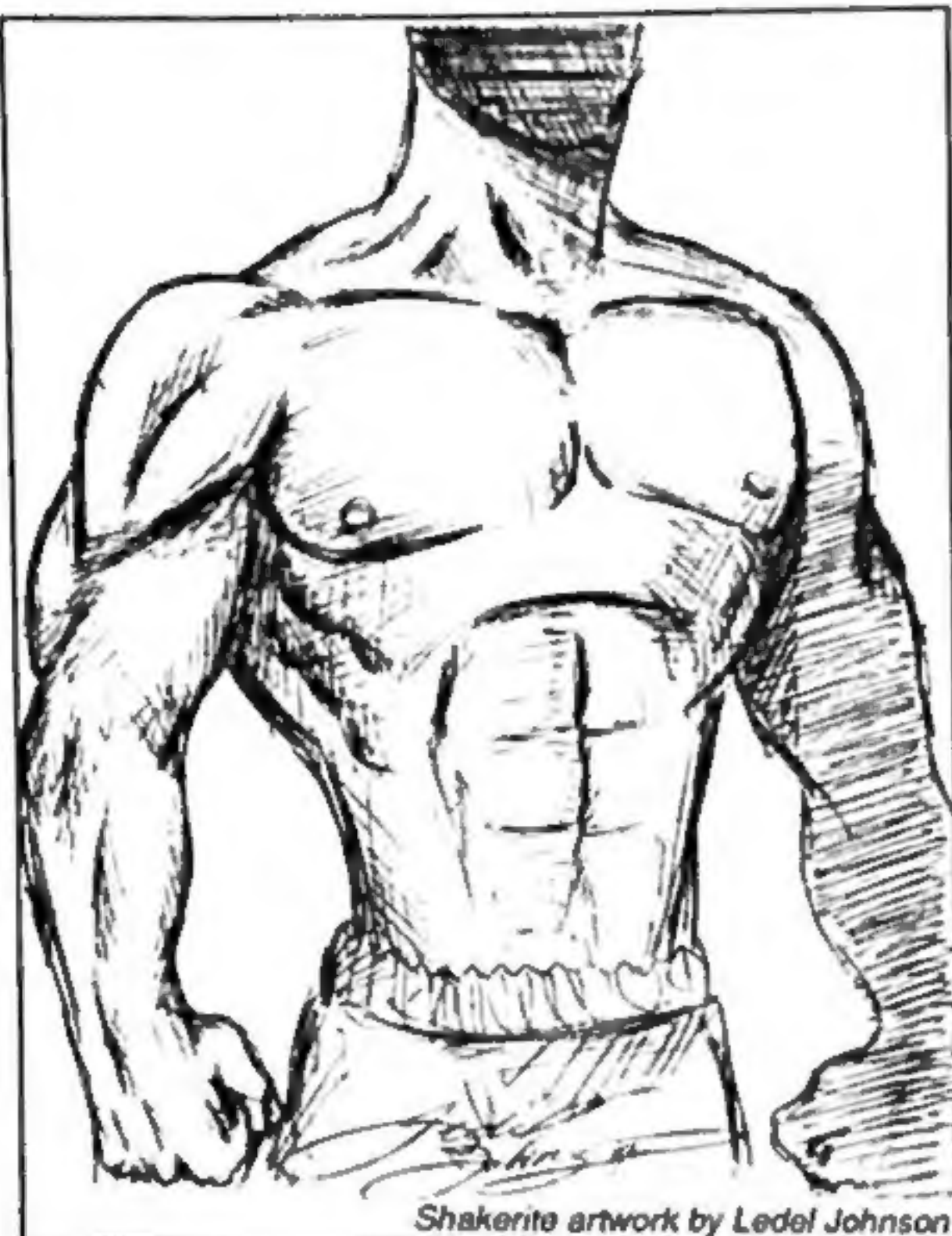


When I first entered the building, the stench of sweat and gym locker musk was the first thing that hit me. The next thing I noticed was the enormous amount of muscle toned and healthy looking people walking around in skintight sweatclothes and tank tops trying to make me feel as inferior as possible.

I have spent \$39 a month on a membership to a fancy fitness center. Which, granted I paid a visit seven times in a period of five months, works out to \$27.86 a visit. For that much money each time, I should have placed in the Mr. Olympiad competition.

My infrequent trips were still enough for me to be astounded by what took place. The gym was swarming with health freaks and muscle-bulging giants, who probably take more pleasure in lifting cars than they do in driving them. The only place I had an advantage was my I.Q. At least I didn't think it was legal to take equipment from the "free weight" room.

With all the cheap stereotypical humor aside, enormous amounts of time were being spent molding and perfecting their physiques. The entire facility smelled of dedication and sweaty towels. Most of the guys have names like Sven and the women names like Sheena and they all, coincidentally, suffer from the same mental illness: compulsive exercisitis.



Although the origin of this disease is unknown, its main symptom is the need of otherwise normal people to perform a daily ritual of painful, masochistic workout routines. I must have caught a side effect somewhere, because for some reason I felt compelled to join and, once I had been there, to actually return at a later date to continue my workout routine.

On my seventh visit the instruments of torture were much less intimidating than before. My six previous visits must have done more than expected. I decided to attempt some leg curls. Before I commenced, I thought it wise to ask Sven if I could borrow

his legs. He politely refused, claiming he needed them for some type of decathlon/mountain climbing event he was entering.

My personalized program recommended two sets at twenty repetitions per leg. Deciding to go on without Sven's legs, I figured I could cut down on time by using both of my legs at once.

After a surprisingly easy workout on the legs, I chose to take it easier. I went upstairs to where there is a health snack bar which stocks more nuts than local squirrels. Before I knew it I was engulfed by two nutritionists suggesting food choices. Rather unwillingly I purchased a cup of lo-cal, no cholesterol yogurt. In other words, I bought some toothpaste, only without the fresh, minty taste.

Looking down from the health bar at all of the physically superior people made me flustered. Spitefully, I decided to accredit all of their achievements to growth hormones. So much for avoiding stereotypes.

By now my body had cooled down from the rigorous exercise and I didn't see a need to further "tone" an already Adonis-like structure. As I walked out of the health club, I began boastfully flexing my bulging arm muscles. By the door, a little girl, maybe five or six years old, began laughing at me and pointing at her well-developed biceps and triceps, already larger than mine. I ran out of the club, almost in tears, and have not returned since. I guess health clubs are just not for me.



College tours fail to provide 'major' decision



After visiting several colleges, I have come to the conclusion that, first of all, I do not want to go and, second of all, I do not belong there anyways.

All of the schools I visited told me how great their students are, and how they just love learning and books. I was disappointed at hearing this because now I feel sort of left out. I have read approximately one and a half books in the past year if you add all the pieces together. Therefore, after visiting these self-proclaimed bastions of knowledge, I can only hope that my future does not hold in it my entering correspondence school for pen-handling.

My main problem is that I still don't have any idea of what I would major in. I don't like numbers, so math and science are probably not good ideas. I do not like reading or books either, so that pretty much rules out the humanities. This leaves "Women's Studies" as a possible major, but I don't think I fit the bill.

I have also ruled out Russian, French, Latin and Greek, mainly because I have never spoken any of these languages coherently or otherwise. English could also be a problem as I have just learned that the works of my mentor, Mr. Cliff, are not available at the average college book store.

I have considered Home Ec., but, being a self-proclaimed sexist, I figure that is something my wife should really take.

The only other course I found myself interested in was an archeology course called "Rocks for Jocks", but I really just liked the name. Besides, it looked a bit too challenging for me.

Although I could not settle on a major, I was enthusiastic to begin checking out the college scene. So, naively enough, I signed up for one of the college tours they run where students show you around the school.

My tour guide really annoyed me. Maybe I do not care that a certain building was built in 1867, burned down in 1877, and was rebuilt in 1887 out of real genuine cement. Actual cement? No kidding?

My only other complaint about colleges was that they had a serious litter problem. This is understandable, however, as all of their dumpsters were deployed, as is the current style, in the library for bookbags.

I tried to enlighten them and explain that they could solve the problem by making big tape squares on the carpet, but for some reason, they were not impressed.

Insanely worried students need to enjoy life while they have one



So many people walk around school with the same look of grim determination on their faces that you might think we are members of some ultra-orthodox cult movement designed to rob life of all its joy and emotion. If you were to stop one of these living dead hall walkers and ask them about why they look so serious, you are likely to set them them off on an uncontrollable tirade about this important test and those important scores, etc., etc., ad nauseam.

What most students in Shaker, and people in general, lack, is a sense of humor about school and about life. Not to sound morbid or anything, but we are all going to die at some point anyway so we might as well enjoy life while we are here. "Carpe diem!" Or, for those of you unacquainted with that famous dead language, Latin, "Seize the day!"

"Seize the day?" you might be wondering to yourself right about now. "How would I go about seizing the day? Should I sneak up from behind and grab it by the neck or would a simple bear hug do the trick? And will seizing this day help me get into college?"

No, you silly goofs, that's just the point. College, college, college, college. It's all

anyone is ever worried about. Stop worrying about college and SAT's and anything even remotely related to furthering education. Concentrate on what's happening right now and enjoy it! Colleges probably are not sitting around worried about how you are doing right now. Why should you worry about them?

"Well, then, how do I stop worrying?" Aha! Now we are getting somewhere. The key to surviving happily and worry free is to see the humor in life. People do funny things so just sit back and watch. Hey, even if nothing exciting is going on, you can doze off and catch up on your sleep. Either way, by sitting around doing nothing all day, you win.

Right now might seem like a hellish time to be alive. Most seniors are probably thinking about when they might start their government papers. They are thinking about the fact that they have not even opened *Pride and Prejudice*. Some of them are even thinking about studying for AP tests. But maybe we can laugh about this. After all, only seven more days until senior project!

The picture is a little more grim for members of the "lower" grades. Juniors, for example, are probably under a huge amount of stress right now. Let's talk term papers. As I am writing this column, most juniors are suffering from an unusual virus which remains dormant until 24 hours before term papers are due. By the time you read this you won't even remember what you did your term paper on.

How about SAT's? I don't mean to scare any juniors or put undue emphasis on

any one aspect of the college admissions process, but SAT's DETERMINE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE! Did you know that when you get to the gates of heaven they want to see your SAT's and your transcript? The median score is 1500, if you're interested. If you are unlucky enough to be "cancelled by ETS", you practically don't exist. For you sophomores and freshmen, ETS (Educational Testing Service) is a huge, evil, monopolistic mega-corporation which controls the outcome of your entire life by reading bubbles with its super-computers. Don't mess with ETS. This company is like the IRS x 1000.

For any of you who read the last paragraph and were thinking, "Oh no, they look at SAT's at college AND in heaven!", I have three words for you. YOU MUST CHILL! Your reality is obviously so warped that it is time to take a step backwards and look at what you have become. After you have stopped laughing at yourself (For example, "Ha Ha, how silly and over-worried I've been."), it's time to define some new goals in life.

For those of you who didn't laugh, and are right now checking ETS to see if you have been cancelled, ("I didn't know they could do that") maybe a serious vacation is in order. Wait a second! Isn't "serious vacation" an oxymoron? Why yes, it is! "Hey, maybe 'oxymoron' will be on the SAT's?" Maybe you'll get a sense of humor some day? Then again, its looking pretty inauspicious right about now. "Maybe 'inauspicious' will be there too?" AARGH! Forget it. I quit.

'Thunder' makes blast

BY JEREMY KAHN
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Mystery, mysticism, and a realistic dose of human misery combine in *Thunderheart*, a suspenseful thriller from director Michael Apted (*Gorillas in the Mist*, *Class Action*) that thrusts the viewer onto the front lines of the complex cultural and political struggle presently being waged on Native American reservations.

Loosely based on actual 1970s events, John Fusco's (*The Babe*, *Crossroads*) screenplay has young FBI agent Ray Levoi (Val Kilmer) dispatched from Washington to the Badlands of South Dakota to assist veteran agent Frank Coutelle (Sam Sheppard) investigate the brutal murder of a tribal council member on the Oglala Sioux's Pine River Reservation, where recent strife between militant traditionalists and pro-government factions has given rise to bloody terrorism and armed conflict.

Levoi's Washington bureau chief believes this to be an open and shut case, and gives the agents three days to crack it. He also makes it perfectly clear that Levoi, who is part Sioux, is being sent primarily as a public relations tool and when the two agents meet, Coutelle makes it known that he resents Levoi's presence. But, upon entering the poverty stricken reservation, the agents' open and shut case becomes far more complicated and Levoi finds it increasingly difficult to determine just who the bad guys really are.

Initially, the hard-edged Levoi goes out of his way to prove that his investigation will not be compromised by his Sioux heritage, but he is plagued by recurring visions relating to his ancestral roots. With the aid of tribal police detective Walter Crowhorse (Graham Greene) and an ancient tribal elder and medicine man, played by Chief Ted Thin Elk, the film becomes a story of supernatural self-discovery as Levoi must come to terms with his own elusive past while attempting to solve the expanding mystery surrounding the homicide.

Setting is an important aspect of any good mystery, and epic cinematography featuring the vivid hues and magnificent landscape of the Dakota Badlands dominates *Thunderheart*, literally from beginning to end. This ever-

present and timeless background dwarfs the film's characters, symbolically reminding the audience of the importance and power of the natural world. It also suggests that the present story is only a miniscule chapter in the long history of the Native American struggle. In contrast to the majesty of the natural surroundings, this film shows the audience another landscape, one covered with litter, dotted with rusting automobiles and containing a polluted river. This squalid landscape of abject poverty — a place where poor quality health care and education are the norm and where alcoholism is epidemic — accurately characterizes the modern reservation.

Thunderheart does not derive its magic from setting alone. It is a relatively well-written, coherent and suspenseful story, flawed primarily by an unfortunate number of cliché lines, sequences, shoot-outs and car chases. There are

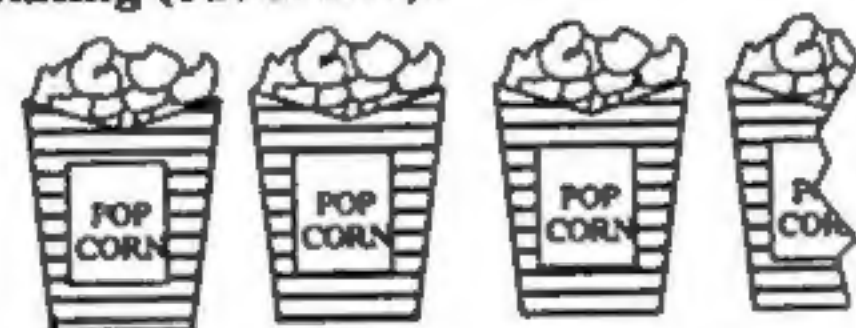
also numerous references to the fact that the agents are on a 'Sensitive Operations Unit' assignment, an aspect of the plot which is only vaguely explained.

The film's conclusion is uplifting, but it is a fanciful Hollywood ending which belittles much of what has gone before.

making it too easy for the audience to forget that this film is a mystery with a social message. Also distracting are its supernatural dream sequences, which detract from an otherwise believable cinematic reality.

However, Kilmer is believable as Levoi, a character whose attitudes change dramatically throughout the film, proving that his superb performance as Jim Morrison in last year's *The Doors* was no fluke. And it is Kilmer's interaction with Greene, previously appearing in *Dances with Wolves*, and Thin Elk, which provides a healthy serving of comic relief, making Apted's *Thunderheart* worth the price of admission.

Rating (out of five):



Kid rappers lack serious attitude

BY DAN MESSINGER
Special Assignment

The class should be called "How to get dressed 101." Kris Kross, two young new rappers, should be the first ones to sign up. On the cover of their new album *All Krossed Up*, Kris Kelly and Kris Smith are outfitted with their clothes on backwards, perhaps a statement of their rebelliousness to the world they live in. Or perhaps not.

Kris Kross opens the album by proclaiming their individuality by attacking another young rap group, Another Bad Creation. Kris Kross appears to be saying, "Listen, we're cool, we're young, and we know the hood." Or perhaps not.

In a genre where the lyrics are the medium by which the music becomes a statement, none of the lyrics on the album are written by either of the two rappers. Could you imagine Public Enemy doing a version of Geto Boys' "My Mind Is Playing Tricks On Me?" Rap began and should continue as the voice of the speaker, not of someone else's words.

However, with all of this aside, Kris Kross has been able to cross over to the mainstream with their single "Jump." This song is representative of the album's attempt to make you dance, not ponder.

So does Kris Kross care what you think of the lyrics? I doubt it. With the chorus of "Jump" being a repetition of "Jump," or "Mac dad will make you jump," they realize that spending undo time on idealistic or political thoughts is not their forte.

In fact, much of the album is catered to their age of 12 years. Songs like "Lil' Boys in the Hood," a song about the life of a young person in the ghetto, are the types of themes they come close to touching on for much of the album. Their interest also revolves around the humour of two boys discussing life relevant to preteenagers. This is a sharp contrast to the dark, angry sound delivered by so many in today's medium. For lack of a better reason, *All Krossed Up* is worth buying if you need a good chuckle.

Spending time referring to a thematic statement is pointless, considering this album is connected with other titles such as "We're in Da House," "The Way of Rhyme" and "Party." This is not your ordinary rap group oppressed by today's standards. For example, they get upset over missing the bus to school. Obviously they are too young to realize this is a cause for celebration.

They're young, and they live for the moment. Is this record one that will stand the test of time? Doubtfully. Sure, "Jump" makes you want to put your clothes on backwards and forget that you ever had a parent to teach you how to get dressed, but a full album of these types of songs makes you realize that maybe it's time to grow up.

Rating (out of five):



'City of Joy' brings little joy to audiences

BY SARAH STEWART
Feature Editor

Some movies leave you breathless, some leave you demanding a refund and a few leave you unsure of what to think. Roland Joffe's *City of Joy* belongs in the third category.

Filmed and set in Calcutta, India, *City of Joy* is the story of a burned out young doctor (Patrick Swayze), who quits his medical practice and travels to India seeking spiritual enlightenment. Although he is placed in a situation encouraging growth, Swayze's character is static. The viewer never understands why he chose India as his destination for soul searching, but through his weak portrayal, a lack of reason is appropriate.

By chance, Swayze's character befriends a struggling Indian family forced to leave their home due to a severe drought and fight to maintain survival in the hellhole that is Calcutta.

Adding to the abundant group of underdeveloped characters is an idealistic British nurse who ultimately recruits the disillusioned doctor to assist at the understaffed free clinic. Also joining the long list of unimportant characters is a pack of gangsters who supposedly protect the area at the expense of all its inhabitants.

Realistic scenes displaying dreadful living conditions and the unpleasant use of lepers as part of the cast give the viewer a peek into the life of the severely underprivileged

and backward lifestyles of the citizens of the 'City of Joy.' Although this movie will open many eyes, it seems to be missing something vital.

Based on the commercials, *City of Joy* seems to have it all: Patrick Swayze, poverty stricken people and just the right amount of violence. Unfortunately, the film, in reality, lacks potency.

The destitution of Calcutta is personalized through the



Shakerite Artwork by Caitlin Roberts

characterization of the Indian family mentioned before, but for some reason the viewer's heart is never permitted to break.

Sure, you feel sorry for them, but in most films of this type you succumb to its sappiness and leave the theater with an empty popcorn container and tear-filled eyes. When the credits roll for *City of Joy*, you feel like you should have cried, out of happiness of course, but your eyes are drier than when the movie started.

It might be that the disasters come too quickly. Just when it seems like things are finally looking up, the gangsters strike again or drought turns to flood or a leper brings another baby, destined for defeat, into the world. So by the time the end is reached on an up note, you don't have the urge to celebrate.

So much perpetual unhappiness has occurred that a less than spectacular finish is insufficient, and although the end is uplifting, it never reaches a state of ecstasy equal to the multiple states of disaster leading up to it.

It's hard to know what to make of this movie, except that another calamity is bound to occur, and it's fortunate that you won't be there to experience it.

Rating (out of five):



Searching for the unknown...

Tarot cards, astrology gain popularity in school

BY JENNIFER FRIEDMAN AND JILL PELAVIN
Staff Reporter and Co-Centerpiece Editor

Tarot cards and astrology are forms of mysticism that are popular among students. Many teenagers use these methods in their search for predictions and relaxation.

Senior Chris Jones is interested in the art of foreseeing the future through the use of tarot cards. Tarot cards have pictures which represent mental images of human feelings.

"The cards illustrate the feelings of people, where they are headed and what is going on in their life," Jones said.

Jones performs tarot card readings on his friends. The readings allow people to examine their inner thoughts and feelings.

"Tarot cards are more a tool for introspection, rather than mysticism. They help people think about what they are feeling. They are used as an aid," Jones said.

More common and commercialized methods of fortune telling are Ouija boards and crystal gazing. Crystals have been used for centuries because of their supposed healing power.

"There are different theories about crystals. One theory says that crystals amplify energy. The other says that they foretell the future," astrologer Sandy Simon said.

Sophomore Sara Rathbone is involved in Native American religious practices. She uses medicine cards which are similar to tarot cards.

"The different spreads tell various things about life. You can ask specific questions, but instead of direct answers the cards will tell you morals or lessons to learn," Rathbone said.

Rathbone adds that these practices have become her personal religion and source of spirituality.

"It's not futuristic, it's moralistic. It's something I believe strongly in, and it is extremely important to me. It

teaches you about life and how to accomplish what you want," she said.

Besides religious practices, students say reading astrological charts is another popular method of predicting the future.

By figuring out patterns on one's charts, astrologists can discover answers to specific questions said Simon. According to Simon, an astrological reading takes about 15 minutes and is usually between \$10 and \$15.

"I ask (one's) date of birth, birth time, and birth place. Using the longitude and latitude (of one's birth place) and other given numbers I make educated guesses about people

by looking at their charts based on calculations involving geometry and trigonometry," Simon said.

Senior Dana Goodman finds that astrology is becoming more and more a part of her lifestyle.

"You take a belief that is not tangible and see if it can

explain life," Goodman said. "The whole world of mysticism is fun, but it also has meaning. I try to keep an open mind. If something hits home, I believe in it."

Through patterns Simon can see things about a person they might not know about themselves such as how they view the world or their relationship with their family.

"Once I look at a person's chart I make assumptions. I can see a person's energy pattern in terms of physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual functioning," Simon said.

For Goodman, her involvement in astrology has allowed her to grow spiritually and has expanded her soul. Astrological charts, tarot cards, and other forms of mystic paraphernalia may show cycles and patterns, yet it is important to realize they are not permanent.

As Simon notes, "Remember, one can always change a situation on their own free will."

The whole world of mysticism is fun, but it also has meaning. I try to keep an open mind. If something hits home, I believe in it.

— Dana Goodman

Numerology reveals personality traits

Numerology is the science of predicting the future with numbers. Using a systematic chart, the 26 letters of the alphabet are assigned to the numbers one through nine.

Calculate your own number by using the following chart.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	

Add up the numerical value of all the letters in your name. If you arrive at a two digit number, add these two digits together to get your number. For example the name, JOHN SMITH, would be 1+6+8+5+1+4+9+2+8=44. Then add 4 and 4 together to arrive at the number 8. Eight is John Smith's number. Read below to find out what your number means.

- One. Since the number one cannot be divided, ones tend to be single-minded. They often make very strong leaders and directors. They have courage and faith in themselves, but often lack the cooperation needed to get along with others.
- Two. People with number two are usually soft and loving. They are patient and friendly and desire the company of others. Occasionally a two may be indecisive.
- Three. Three people are lively and anxious and usually lucky. They enjoy color and things of beauty. Their faults are that they may not take things as seriously as they should.
- Four. Four is considered the worst number to have. They are plodding and conspiring, however they are down to earth and hard workers. They are unemotional and dignified.
- Five. Fives are clever, but they are also restless. They enjoy travelling and taking risks. The treasure freedom and are considered to have active sex lives.
- Six. Despite a six's lack of brilliance they usually become quite successful. They are very conventional and often dull. They enjoy staying at home and are a "mother" figure.
- Seven. A person with the number seven is a true scholar. They are serious and intelligent, but they lack playfulness. Sevens tend to be unhappy people.
- Eight. Eights represent success in a materialistic way. They are strong, tough and practical. An eight is best suited in a world of business and finance.
- Nine. The number nine is the composite of all the other numbers and therefore the combination of all their traits as well. Nines demonstrate love, charity and compassion. They are romantic and emotional.

Source: *The Magic Art of Foreseeing the Future*, Daniel Cohen

Wheel of Fortune



Horoscopes...

It's all in the stars

BY DEBRA MAYERS
Co-Centerpiece Editor

It is common knowledge that the earth rotates around the sun and that a complete orbit is made every 365 days. During this orbit, the sun appears to be making a path, a path that is called the zodiac. According to *Fortune Telling*, by Douglas Hill, the zodiac consists of 12 constellations.

Locate the range in which your birthday falls and that is your zodiac sign. The following paragraph tells the symbol associated with your sign and what the stars hold for you in the future.

- **Capricorn**, the Goat (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)
You are independent and individualistic. You are sometimes cynical, but you never lack ambition. Now's the time to make a fresh start. Let bygones be bygones and get on with your life and over your grudge. Assert your opinions.
- **Aquarius**, the Water-Carrier (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Artistic and scientific creativity is your forte. You are devoted to peaceful causes. Don't shy away from the unknown. Be adventurous and daring. Financial profits are coming your way, but beware they may not last forever.
- **Pisces**, the Fish (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20)
You are very idealistic and sensitive and occasionally introverted. Speak up, tell everyone your ideas. A phone call brings good news. Beware of secrets, they may put you in danger later in life.
- **Aries**, the Ram (March 21 - Apr. 20)
You possess a dominating spirit, full of adventure and impulsiveness. Now is a good time for travelling and exploring. Your curiosity is healthy, but don't allow it to get the best of you. Some things are better when left undiscovered.
- **Taurus**, the Bull (Apr. 21 - May 21)
People think of you as reliable and strong. Take the time to indulge yourself. Sit back and relax, you deserve to take a break. Make an effort to better adjust to unwanted changes.
- **Gemini**, the Twins (May 22 - June 21)
Quick-witted and energetic, you always appear lively and articulate. Slow down! Take time to look around and see what is important. Follow through with your obligations and your efforts will pay off.
- **Cancer**, the Crab (June 22 - July 22)
You are emotional, sensitive and occasionally moody, but you are patient and loyal to those who depend on you. Even the simplest things may become complicated. Watch out for trivial facts, they may return to haunt you later.
- **Leo**, the Lion (July 23 - Aug. 23)
Dominating, strong and ambitious, you control yourself well in tough situations. Not everyone wants to hear your opinions, try and keep some of them to yourself. Watch your step or you may fall into a trap.
- **Virgo**, the Virgin (Aug. 23 - Sept. 23)
You are intelligent, cool and sensible. Your self-confidence is beneficial, but an overbearing ego is not highly. Allow yourself to stray from a routine and you will see the benefits.
- **Libra**, the Scales (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
You easily get along with people because you are sociable and tactful. Try something new and exciting. Use your common sense and you will win people to your side.
- **Scorpio**, the Scorpion (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Aggressive and passionate, you use these qualities to enhance your life. You have great ideas. Let others help you turn these ideas into reality. Rely upon your family for extra support.
- **Sagittarius**, the Archer (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)
You enjoy the outdoors and physical activity which is shown in your energetic outlook on life. Being patient will help get you through rough times. Suppress the desire to act impulsively.

Shakerite Artwork by Kathryn Schultz

Band's concerts appreciated in England

BY JEREMY KAHN
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The invaders arrived suddenly. They assembled in formation and with near-military precision, marched on the sleepy little village to the sound of the fife and drum (among other instruments). Witnessing the invaders snake through the town, their crimson uniformed columns highlighted against the green of the surrounding countryside, it was hard to resist the temptation to scream, "The redcoats are coming! The redcoats are coming!" And indeed they were, but these redcoats belonged not to some British colonial regiment, but to the Red Raider Marching Band and the scene described is not a military invasion, but a march through the village of Corby Glen, part of the band's recent tour of England.

One hundred and forty band members plus parents and other chaperones participated in the trip which lasted from March 19 to March 29. The tour included two marches and two formal concerts, as well as sightseeing trips to Brighton, Bath, Salisbury, Oxford, Warwick Castle, and London.

The majority of the English people expressed both surprise and delight at hearing the Shaker students perform selections by both British and American composers.

"I think this is very grand," said Linda Keer, a resident of Kent, England. Keer saw the band march in Worthing, a seaside town in the south of England where the band stayed for five days and where she and her husband were vacationing.

Others who saw the band march along the shore in Worthing on March 21 were also impressed.

"I think that this is great. They are much larger than I thought they would be," said Worthing Police Officer W.P.C. Jones.

Two days later, the band gave a concert in the Worthing assembly hall where they received similar praise.

"It left me breathless. This was a professional performance—brilliant," the mayor of Worthing said following the concert. The mayor also said that the band was the largest group of musicians he had ever seen on the assembly hall stage.

While the band was in Worthing, 50

students stayed in the homes of host families, giving them the opportunity to experience English life and culture first-hand.

Many students believed that these homestays were one of the best experiences of the trip.

"The homestay was my favorite part of the trip," said sophomore Jason Stenta.

Band president Rachel Lowenthal expressed a similar view.

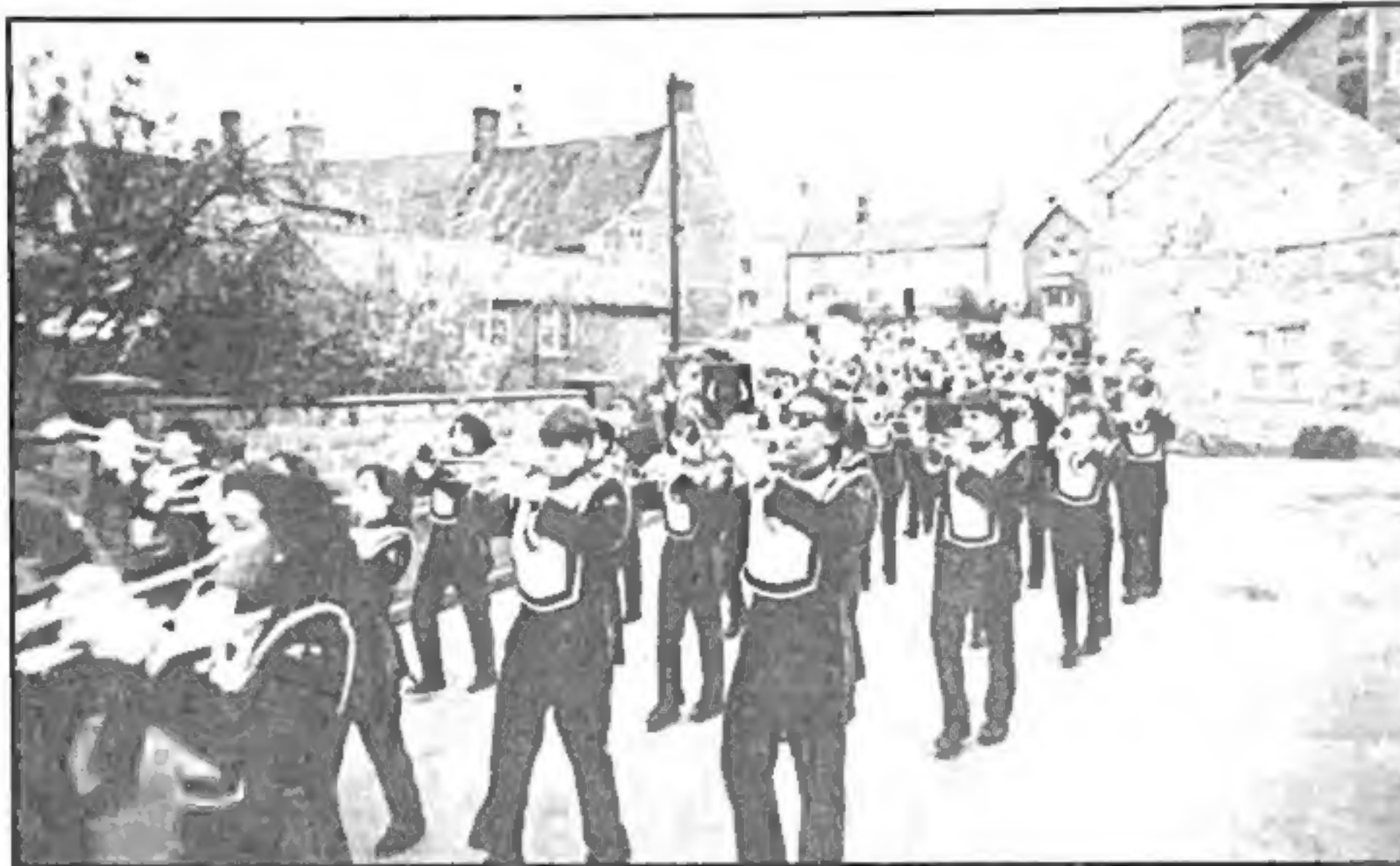
"The best part of the whole trip was getting to know the people of Britain," Lowenthal said.

Sophomore Kevin Stear said he was

pressed by the cultural diversity and multitude of talents represented in the Shaker students.

"British schools tend to be more homogeneous," Rumbaugh said. "But, we go both to learn and to teach."

On March 25, the band traveled north from London to the village of Corby Glen, where English teachers Steven and Carol Fox had previously spent a year as part of a teacher-exchange with the Charles Reed School. A good portion of the community, whose major annual event is a centuries-old sheep festival, came out to see the band



THE BAND GOES MARCHING IN The band parades through Corby Glen during their recent trip to England.

Shakerite Photo by Jeremy Kahn

disappointed with the homestays.

"The homestays could have been better coordinated and more organized," Stear said.

Principal Jack Rumbaugh, who accompanied the band and helped coordinate the trip, regretted that more students did not have the opportunity to participate in homestays.

"Homestays are most important in terms of making you aware of another culture and of all the subtle differences between cultures," Rumbaugh said.

Rumbaugh said that he believed the English people were both surprised and im-

march and perform in a concert. Many members of the community were shocked by the band's arrival.

"This is very different from the norm around here, but it's beautiful to hear them play. I think they are marvelous," resident Quincy Lillian said.

As the band marched through the town they passed a Texaco station where several men stared in disbelief at what they saw.

"This ought to put Corby Glen on the map," station attendant Kay Clark said. "We don't usually have this many visitors except for the Corby Sheep Fair."

Steven Fox was very excited about the band visiting the village which was his adopted home during 1988-1989 school year.

"I am so excited about being here and I talked to people as [the band] was marching, trying to explain what was going on," Fox said. "I think they're going to talk about [the band's] visit to Corby Glen for a long time."

Band members were generally pleased with their performances.

"I think all our concerts turned out real well. The audiences were very receptive," Stenta said.

Lowenthal agreed saying that "although there were only a few performances, they were all of real quality and went off better than expected."

Band Director Hans Bonhert said he was proud of the job the band had done.

"I thought that all of our performances went very well and were really appreciated by the English audiences. After all the planning and fundraising, it was nice to see it come off so well," Bonhert said.

Some students said they were disappointed with the reaction of British audiences when compared to the reception the band received when playing in Germany in 1989-1990.

"The people seemed appreciative and I think they liked [our playing], but the people were more reserved than in Germany. To the British it seemed like it was just another concert," senior Doug Thornton said.

Most students said they did not know what to expect before the trip and that they enjoyed the tour as a whole.

"I thought the sight-seeing was planned out very nicely as we got to see a good overview of England," Thornton said.

Lowenthal also said that the band received a good glimpse of England and a good sampling of English culture.

"Overall, we got to see a lot of England. I think all the hours of organization and fundraising really did pay off," she said.

Stenta said the trip dispelled some preconceptions he had of the English.

"It was a great experience. Before going to England my friends and I had all seen Monty Python movies and it was interesting to go and hear how people really talked and acted and what their sense of humor was really like," Stenta said.



Orchestra and choir surpass tough competition

BY ELIEZER GURARIE
Staff Reporter

Amid the blue waters and the golden sands of Virginia Beach, more than 120 Shaker Students in the Shaker High School String Ensemble and the Women's and Mixed A Capella Choirs, coasted through the North American Music Festival, April 23 through April 26, with superior and excellent ratings, as well as several trophies.

Led by Tracy Powers, the String Ensemble received the a superior rating, the highest possible, for their performances with a score of 411 out of 450 possible points. They placed first among the orchestras and

in a separate competition for instrumental excellence between all of the orchestras and bands. The victory was the first time in eight years that an orchestra outscored school bands.

"I was was immensely proud of the orchestra's performance. They played excellently and deserved their honors," said Powers.

Students shared this enthusiasm, and enjoyed the competition and judges remarks.

"It was fun to play and actually get critiqued for your performances," said sophomore harpist and orchestra librarian Rachel Shermer.

"We were all really proud," added junior Miesha Filey. "Although the acoustics in

the room were horrible, we sounded good; even better than the bands."

Under the direction of Ron Morgan, the Mixed A Capella Choir also received superior ratings with 390 points and placed second overall. The Women's A Capella received excellent ratings.

"I'm very proud of the choir, proud of their unity, proud of the way they sang. We represented the school well," said Morgan.

"We sang really well and felt good after the performance. The margin between our points and the choir that won was negligible," said senior Arin Miller, Mixed A Capella's secretary.

Aside from performing, both the choirs and the orchestra participated on a dinner

cruise called "The Spirit of the Norfolk," spent time on the beach, and went to Busch Gardens.

"The cruise was a lot of fun. We spent and evening eating and dancing. [The Chorus and Orchestra] were together and it was a good experience," said senior choir treasurer Mary DiDio.

Many people agreed that the cooperation between the three musical groups added much to the five day trip.

"One of the highlights of the tour was the way the choir and orchestra got together and worked like a cohesive unit," said Ron Morgan. "The growth that comes from these things is, maybe, even more important than the ratings."

Robinson recalls traumatic escape

BY LESLY BLANTON

Staff Reporter

The inalienable rights we take for granted did not exist for German teacher Heike Robinson during her childhood in Communist East Germany, living within a country where the government's regulations outweighed the people's will.

As a child, Robinson lived in Eisterwerda, East Germany, with her grandmother. In Sept. 1953, her Austrian father left East Germany officially for Austria, but instead moved to West Germany. Later her mother received permission from the government to follow, and she travelled to West Germany.

Because education was paid for by the government in East Germany, Robinson was convinced by her parents to remain living with her grandmother and aunt.

"[Remaining in East Germany] was fine. I could visit my parents every summer and my mother visited us, so we didn't have any problems," Robinson said.

After finishing elementary school, Robinson wanted to study at the high school. However, to be admitted she had to join in a political celebration and was forced to make an oath to the socialist party. Although Robinson had ethical problems about taking the oath, she eventually did.

"I hated [having to take the oath]," Robinson said. "I hated it with all my heart."

The principal of her new school made sure communism was taught. The students were forced to promise not to have connections to West Germany or to visit there.

"This meant I could not see my parents. I panicked. Can you imagine being 15 years old and being told you couldn't see your parents?" Robinson said. "The only possibility was that my mother could visit me. She could just come two weeks a year."

When she was 15, Robinson was given a West German booklet that displayed things such as BB guns, signal flares and air rifles from her older cousin who collected antique war memorabilia. The bag in which the



FREEDOM TO LEARN. German teacher Heike Robinson is at home in the American classroom, but in the past she fought to escape the oppression of her own home in what was formerly East Germany.

Photo by Jason Hamilton

booklet was placed was lost and found by officials who reported it to her school principal. Although Robinson was not reprimanded, her cousin told her there was talk about spies in her school.

Robinson then tried to escape East Germany on her own.

While on the train to West Berlin, Robinson and eight others who she did not know were removed and kept in the station. She was put into a room and questioned while someone shone a spotlight in her face.

Robinson escaped through the bathroom window. After hitch-hiking to the border in a Russian truck, she was met by East German soldiers who had been waiting for her and who took her back to the train station. Robinson was then placed in a detention home for young escapees.

The first thing she encountered when she entered the home was the sound of beat-

ings and a man screaming.

"I was scared to death. I was scared of what would happen to me," Robinson said.

The escapees' money, clothes and shoes were confiscated, and they were given sweat suits and poorly fitting shoes. The boys and girls were housed in the same room, without latches or knobs on the doors.

Within a few days Robinson was able to smuggle a letter to her uncle in West Berlin explaining her dilemma and her approximate location.

"[My family] finally found out I was caught somewhere in the system," Robinson said.

After Robinson had been taken to another detention home, Robinson's aunt was given directions to the home and was able to retrieve her.

From that point on Robinson was considered a Republic escapee, expelled from

school and waited for permission to join her parents in West Germany. After three months the system granted her a visa to leave East Germany because she was still a minor and would be the responsibility of her parents.

Robinson's memories of her life in East Germany are mixed. She knew that her East German classmates reported what they considered rebellious behavior, such as mentioning a desire to see her parents and stating that she preferred West German cookies over East German cookies, to school officials, yet she never resented them.

"[My friends reporting on me] was disappointing, but it never made me upset. I felt sorry for them," Robinson said.

"People were pressed into behavior like this," she added.

Robinson, who has revisited East Germany, vividly remembers when the Berlin Wall went up in 1961.

"I was crying so much because nobody knew if we could ever see our families," Robinson said.

After the wall was constructed, she found traveling to West Germany much more difficult. People were required to obtain visas four weeks prior to crossing the border with no guarantee that they would be able to cross. Travelers' belongings were searched thoroughly; Robinson herself was strip-searched on two occasions.

Robinson moved to the United States after marrying an American, but she was in West Germany when the Wall fell in 1989.

"I thought in my lifetime I would never see this Wall come down. The wall was not just a concrete structure dividing two geographic locations, it was a structure dividing our hearts and our families," Robinson said. "I couldn't believe it."

After experiencing life in three countries, Robinson has gained a deep respect and appreciation for human rights and democracy as we cherish in the United States.

"What I value is the sensitivity about other people's religion, culture and beliefs, and equal opportunity rights for all citizens," Robinson said.

Students take charge of their personal finances

BY JOSHUA GOODMAN

Staff Reporter

In a generation where the word "CHARGE," is more often associated with plastic credit cards than baseball games, students are taking control of their personal finances.

According to a Shakerite survey of 250 students, 21 percent have their own personal checking account. Another 18 percent have their own credit card, while 87 percent of students surveyed responded that they have savings accounts.

Sophomore Rachel Katz, who has both a checking account and credit card, said that she withdraws money infrequently.

"Having a checking account teaches you control and responsibility," Katz said. "You learn first hand the value of a dollar and how

not to be frivolous with hard-earned money."

According to an account representative at Ohio Savings Bank, anyone with a driver's license and credit card can open an account. However, the bank often requires a credit card in addition to a driver's license. Only with the manager's

approval can an account be opened with only a driver's license.

The account representative said students often open a joint savings account with a parent. The representative added that students rarely open their own checking accounts, but once opened parents are unable to put official restrictions on their child's use of their checking or savings account.

Freshman Phaedra Long said that al-

though she has her own checking account, her parents restrict her usage of it.

Senior Eric Rickin, who has his own checking account and credit card, said that unfortunately, he usually ends up spending more than he would like.

"I now can sympathize with members of Congress who constantly overdraw on their accounts," Rickin said.

Other students feel that having a checking account is too much of a hassle and prefer to keep their money in cash.

Junior Emily Dakin said that she usually keeps up to \$100 cash in her room.

"[Opening a checking account] is too much of a hassle, although I suppose I should open one anyway," Dakin said.



I now can sympathize with members of Congress who constantly overdraw on their accounts.

— Eric Rickin



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Hometown pride encouraged by city's recent comeback

BY LAURIE GREEN
Staff Reporter

Our crooked river caught on fire in the 1970's, and since then Cleveland has suffered from a serious inferiority complex.

Sophomore Eve Gonsenhausner said that the fire on the Cuyahoga River was one of the major reasons why Cleveland attracted negative attention and acquired its poor reputation.

However, Cleveland also became nationally known for its racial and political problems, Philip Porter wrote in *Cleveland: Confused City on a Seesaw*.

"Cleveland became a kind of popular metaphor for the troubled American city with its racial conflict, urban decay, damaged environment, increased crime, shrunken revenues and disenfranchised and irate citizens," Porter said.

Some students recognized Cleveland's sports teams as a cause of Cleveland's ridicule.

"I think our sports teams add to Cleveland's poor image. The Browns lose, the Indians continually do poorly and we have been without a hockey team for a while," senior Richard Summers said.

Senior Colin White attributes Cleveland's problems to the fact that the city has become too suburbanized.

"In cities such as New York and Chicago people stay in the cities after work, but it seems that in Cleveland, after the day ends, everyone goes home to the suburbs and the city empties," White said.

While the 70s distinguished Cleveland as a city of comical mishaps, the 80s and 90s created the "Comeback City." Cleveland is experiencing a renaissance of growth, from new malls and hotels, a new stadium and the impending possibility of the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame.

"I think that projects such as the Flats and Tower City will help attract outsiders and encourage people to [visit] downtown Cleveland because there will be places to go," senior Courtney Whipple said.

"I am really excited about the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame," sophomore Nicole McGovern said. "I think it will bring a lot of people to Cleveland to see the famous musicians, shows and concert. It will hopefully help the city to get a better reputation."

Although projects such as Gateway and the hall of fame seem to be progressing slowly, senior Tance Sims believes the resulting improvement will be worth the wait.

"Once Cleveland 2000 gets the projects together, Cleveland will be something to be proud of," Sims said.

Some students disagreed, stating that new developments will help in the immediate future, but once the novelty wears off, people will not continue to travel downtown.

"When the Galleria first opened it was a very popular place to go and was probably a help to the economy, but now nobody goes there anymore," sophomore Roberta Challenger said.

Gonsenhausner sees the new malls and stadium as attractive features, but she said that there are already buildings in downtown Cleveland that have beautiful architecture and deserve renovation.

According to Ned Whelan, in *Cleveland Shaping the Vision*, "The vision of Cleveland is one of partnership of private citizens, business, and industry working together with the public sector to build a community in which we can all take pride."

Parties dominated by drinking, survey reveals

BY REBECCA DAVIS
Staff Reporter

This is your school.

This is your school on drugs-alcohol, to be specific.

In a recent Shakerite survey of 200 students, 86 percent said that at the high school parties they attend, all, most or some of the people there drink.

"Most people in this school don't know how to have a good time at a party without drinking or doing drugs," sophomore Betsy Ehlen said in her survey.

Fights involving guns, mace, knives and other weapons occur at most weekend parties he attends, sophomore Litrell Chapman said, and involve both males and females. Guns are accessible to students off the street, he added, or else can be taken from parents.

Everyone, including in-season athletes, drinks at the parties he attends, especially while their parents are not around, according to Chapman.

"My mother, she doesn't approve of me drinking," Chapman continued. "If I come in drunk, she really doesn't know because I sober up before I come in and I do something to get [the alcohol] off my breath."

Many students said in their surveys that parents are unaware or unconcerned that their children attend parties with alcohol.

"They won't really care if it's cleaned up," a female sophomore wrote. "Either they don't want to know, or otherwise if you just clean it up you can have a party."

Meanwhile, most students feel that while the police frequently break up high school parties because neighbors have complained or because they notice a large crowd, the consequences are small and do little to change the situation.

"The police really don't do much," a female junior

wrote. "If they bust a party, then they just send everyone home. No one except those having the parties ever care about the police."

Detective Mike Klima of the Shaker Heights Police Department said that the major offenders are the hosts' parents, regardless of whether they are aware of the party. If anyone attending the party is injured, according to Klima, the hosts' parents are liable and may face law suits.

"First of all, [the parents] can be held criminally responsible for serving alcohol or just having knowledge that there's alcohol on the premises or that there's alcohol being served on the premises," Klima said.

Minors easily obtain alcohol from stores in Shaker and several more just over the border in Cleveland Heights, enabling them to bring their own beer or liquor to parties.

"Most people can't walk into a grocery store and get [alcohol], but some stores will sell it to you," a sophomore female said.

Klima defended the police department's investigation of these stores over the past few years, adding that the department continues to follow suspected violators by watching suspicious areas and charging cashiers.

Other students blame peer pressure and teenage social expectations for the problems of teenage drinking at parties.

"As long as there is alcohol, it [is] always someone underage that [is] drinking it because they want to be so called 'cool' or because they see their parents doing it," a female freshman said.

Klima also said that in his experience there are usually only a few serious drinkers at the parties he has broken up, with the rest simply following the crowd.

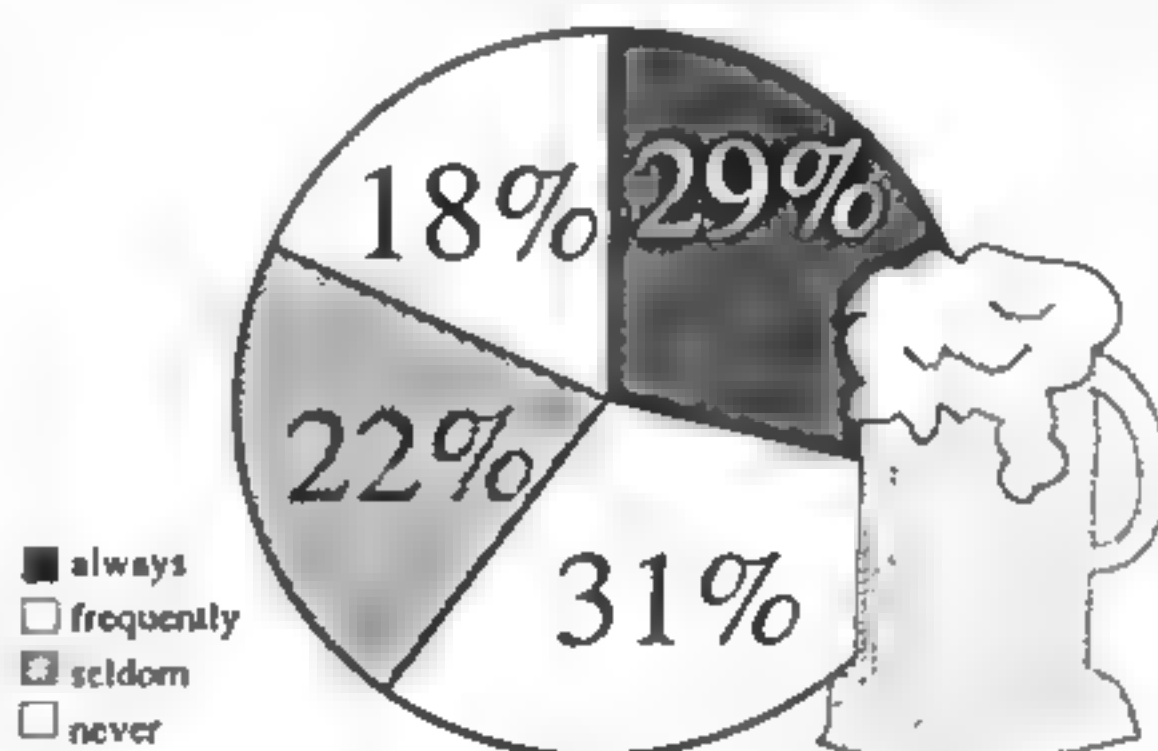
"They're really hurting themselves in the long run and can hurt someone else in the long run," he said.

Any questions?

Sobering statistics: underage drinking common in students

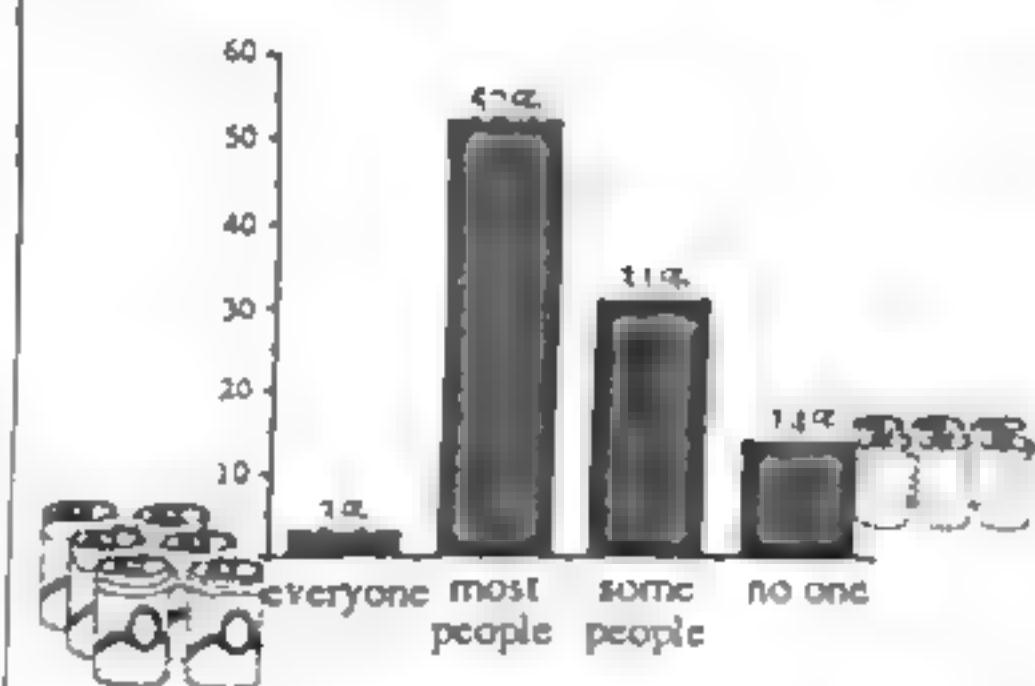
200 Shaker students responded to a survey regarding their drinking habits and those of their peers. The following are excerpts from the results of that survey.

Graphics by Kathryn Schulz



How often is alcohol served/available at the high school parties that you attend?

Do your parents know that you attend parties where alcohol is available?



How many people attending these parties usually drink alcohol while there?

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Parents unlikely role models for teens

BY NANAR TABRIZI

Staff Reporter

It used to be Superman. Some say it's Magic Johnson. Or could it be Mom or Dad?

According to a national public opinion poll conducted by *Parents Magazine* in 1988, 72 percent of adults who said that they had childhood role models had role models whose names would generally not be recognized outside the home, such as mother, father and teacher.

Unlike earlier generations, senior Mike Jeans said that today's generation would be less likely to have role models within the home.

"Most people today would probably pick role models [outside of] the home," Jeans said. "Having role models in the home means that you have to answer to someone in the home. Having celebrities as role models creates a false reality."

Identifying her mother as her role model, sophomore Maisha Mescudi disagreed with Jeans and said it was more probable that teenagers recognize their parents as role models.

"It's easier to pattern your life after someone you love instead of someone you don't know," Mescudi said.

Beside the difference of designating parents as role models, several other discrepancies between generations surfaced.

Sophomore Kevin Stear felt that unlike our generation, role models of previous generations were thought of as flawless.

"Today, we don't mind and overlook imperfection and bad qualities," Stear said. Math teacher Walter Slovokovski said that role models have not changed but merely shifted.

"Role models still stay within things like family, religion and sports," Slovokovski said. "They just change because the faces do."

Among the role models mentioned by students was Magic Johnson.

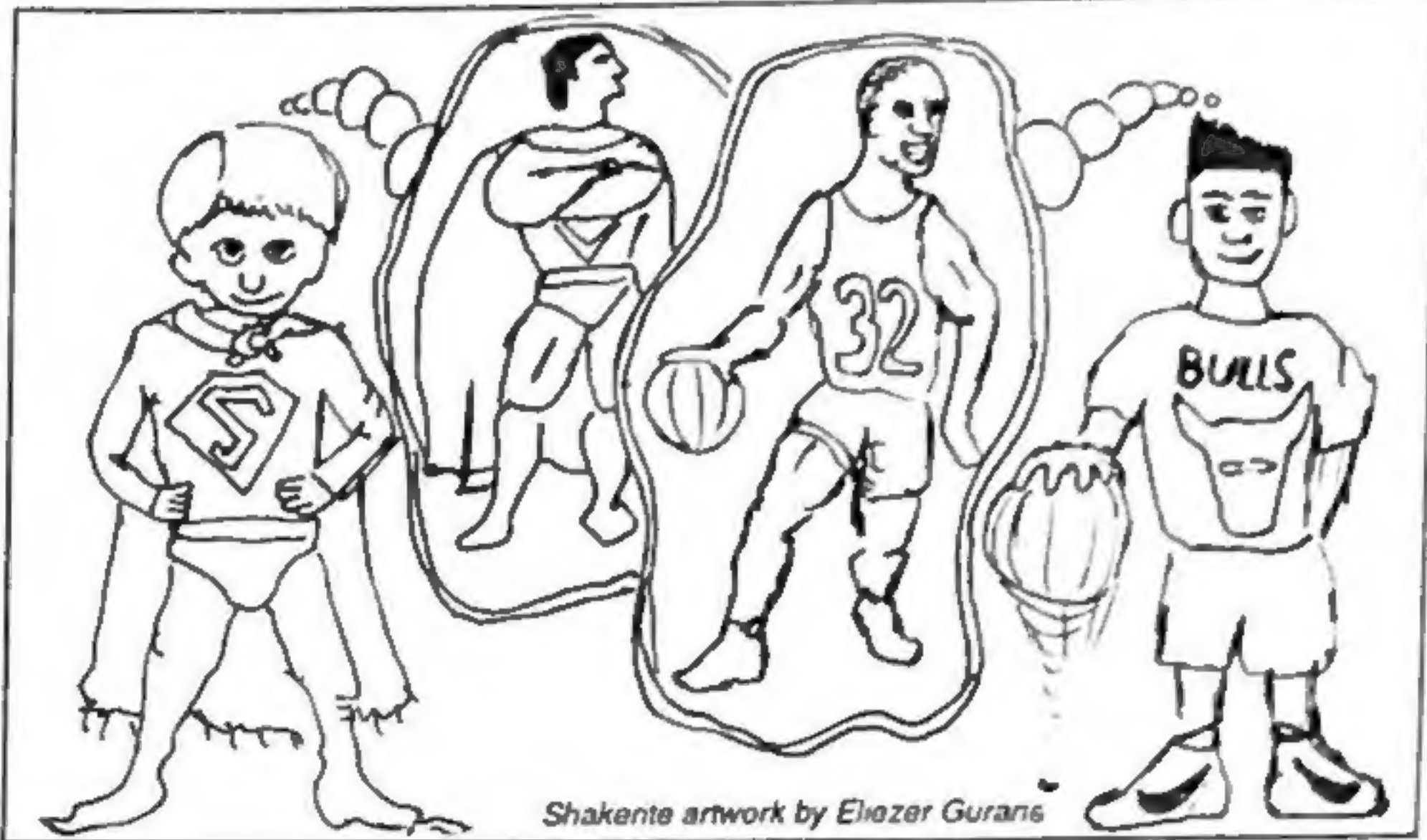
"Sometimes when I'm doing something, I put myself in his shoes," Stear said. "It helps me concentrate and focus on being that person and being specialized in what I'm doing."

Although crediting Johnson for making the most of a bad situation, chemistry teacher Mary Nackley's views on Magic Johnson differed.

"I feel that [celebrities] have a great responsibility as role models," Nackley said. "I wish that [Johnson] could have taken a step further and not just talked about safe sex but also about saying no and being monogamous."

Junior Aisha Bell said that her role model is black activist Angela Davis, known for her communism and association with the Black Panthers.

"It's amazing to see a woman with people



rallying on her side," Bell said. "She just doesn't speak but has solutions to problems mentioned."

Students also said that their idea of a role model has changed as they grow older. According to Bell, as her education and reading advance, her role models change from home and television figures to more worldly personalities.

Others, such as junior Collette Jones, do not have role models and expressed unwillingness to mimic the lives of others.

"I want to be my own person," Jones

said. "I basically set my own goals of who I want to be. Nobody has my exact goals, so I don't have a role model."

Like Jones, senior Antjuan Taylor said most teenagers, especially black students, lack role models. According to Taylor, the lack of role models contributes to a lack of motivation.

"What black teens see most are black athletes," Taylor said. "If you don't have lawyers and doctors around you, you don't think there's a possibility for [being like them]."

Woodbury experience seen as positive change

BY AMY GURGLE

Staff Reporter

In the fall of 1987 fifth and sixth graders went back to school along with the rest of the district.

But their experience was clearly unique. Drastic restructuring in the Shaker School District closed Ludlow, Moreland, Malvern and Sussex, while Woodbury was reopened as a fifth and sixth grade elementary school. Developing a uniform class size, allowing specialized teachers to remain in one building and equalizing teaching materials were accomplished by these changes.

The main reason for the changes, however, was to ensure racial distribution. In 1987 many of the neighborhoods in Shaker had become predominantly one race.

For some students, leaving their neighborhood elementary schools to go to Woodbury was a big switch. Those students, from all areas of the city, were together before middle school for the first time.

"Some [students] were very happy here at Woodbury. Some children felt it was very overwhelming. Some felt very alone; childhood friendships were broken up," Woodbury principal Delores Groves said.

"I was scared because I was starting a new school," freshman Alyson Tynes said of her initial experience at Woodbury. "I liked meeting new people, but I missed being with just the Lomond people."

Overall, student reactions to the changes were positive.

The first group of students to go to Woodbury as fifth graders are the present day ninth graders.

"I think Woodbury was a good idea. It got people acquainted with new friends and new faces. It helped me learn how to make new friends and meet people," freshman Sean Malone said.

Switching to a new school was also an adjustment for teachers. Teachers at the four closed elementary schools, after choosing the grade they wanted to teach, were then assigned to a school. Many of the teachers who taught fifth and sixth grade moved to Woodbury.

"Teachers were coming from nine different schools. They had to get used to another school and a new personality in leadership," Groves said.

"A lot of teachers who had good friends in the same building, especially in different grades, were split up and were affected by that," Woodbury science teacher Debbie Tynes said. "Other teachers who had cooperative teaching methods between grades could no longer have them."

Parents were also affected by the redistricting. Some students who previously lived within walking distance to one school were bused to another for equal racial distributions.

"I was a little angry at Shaker for the redistricting," said Barbara Gedos, whose son attends Lomond. "It seems to me a child should go to the school closest to where he lives. I don't know if in the long run it was a good idea. The redistricting improved some schools but weakened others."

For other parents the changes were positive.

"We're really happy with the changes. I don't have to worry about [my daughter] walking," said Kathy Pivak, whose child is a second grader at Lomond. "If she went to Fernway, I would have felt I had to walk with her or drive her to school everyday. The [Lomond] bus stops right in front of our house and this way I see her get on the bus and I see her get off."

Mixed opinions about the alterations were represented in the enrollment figures for the 1987-88 school year, the first year of the changes. According to a Shaker Heights City School District Report, the percent of Shaker students enrolled in private schools increased .6 percent to 17.3 percent for that year.

Students said they were sent to private schools because of possible bussing. This migration away from public education was most present in the ninth and tenth graders who were the first to attend Woodbury.

"I went to Sussex, but I had to go someplace close because my mom didn't want me bussed, so I went to St. Dominic's from fifth through eighth," said freshman Perri Mosoff, who left the Shaker system in 1987.

The following school year, 1988-89, the percent of students in private schools decreased from 17.3 to 16.6 percent. Since then the percentage of private enrollment has steadily decreased and is now at 15.1 percent.

"Change is different," Jean Sylak, Executive Director of Education, said. "It takes a while for a person to come to terms with change."

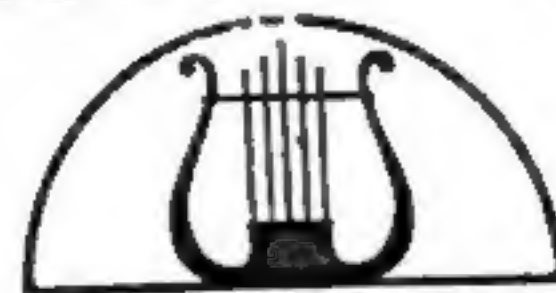
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Mens lacrosse team overcoming inexperience

BY MICHAEL BECKER
Staff Reporter

Despite having a varsity squad for only the second year, the mens lacrosse team is playing well, especially since they qualified ninth for the state playoffs last year.

"Last year we were pretty successful," said coach Ken Kirtz. "This year we should be at least as good."

Already this season, the team has beaten Wooster, last year's state champion in Shaker's division. The only loss the team has faced was against Hilliard, a team in the top eight in Ohio a year ago.

"This year looks like it could be a very prosperous season," said tri-captain and senior Brian Hegyes.

Leading the attack on offense are juniors Chris Ticconi and Scott Frerichs. The defense consists of Hegyes and juniors Brendon Sheeran and Ted Fitch. The midfielders are seniors Matt Fader and Caleb Willis, the two other captains of the team. Senior midfielder Todd Federman is the key face-off man. Junior Chris Brown assumes the goalie duties.

Coach Kirtz said that Federman's

faceoffs allow Shaker to control the ball more often, resulting in a higher number of goals. Also, Kirtz said that team uses a lot of talent to win games.

"They are a smart bunch of guys," he said. "We have a lot of clever finishers."

According to Kirtz, the main weakness of the team is youthfulness.

"Some younger players do inexperienced type of things," he said.

Another weakness is the lack of players. Kirtz is looking underclassmen who would join the team for the future.

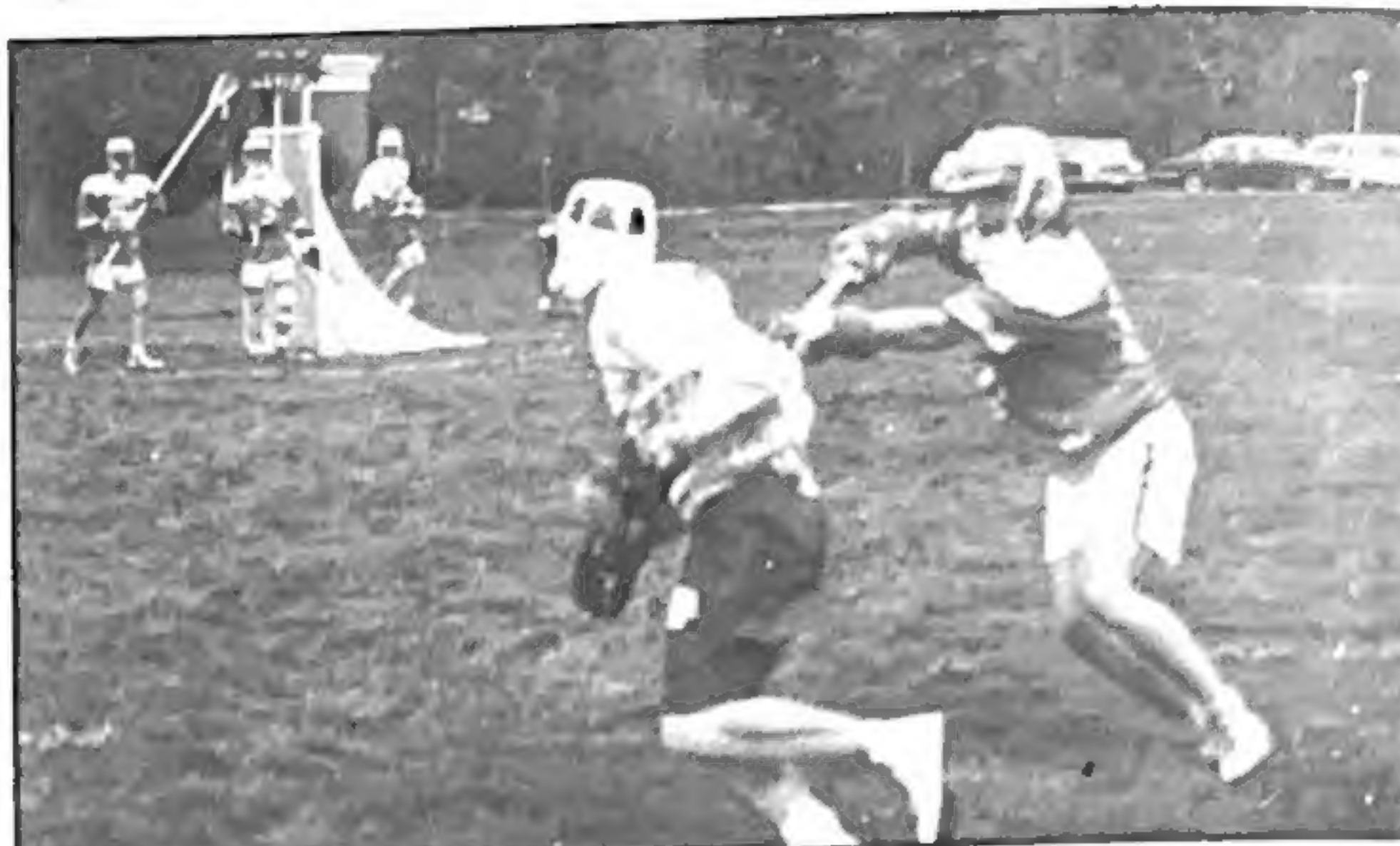
"I welcome inexperienced athletes who would like to learn lacrosse," he said.

The home playing field for the team is at Woodbury, which Kirtz said needs help. The weather has made it difficult to keep it in good shape. He said he would like an indoor field house like at other schools.

Shaker competes in a 10 team league consisting of squads from the Cleveland area. Top teams besides Shaker include, Hilliard, Wooster, Hudson and Walsh Jesuit.

"I think we will probably win eight or nine out of a 13 game schedule," Kirtz said.

The top eight teams in the state play for the class "A" title at the end of the year. Last year, Shaker was ranked first in class "B",



STICK IN THE BACK. A Shaker lacrosse member gets checked from behind during a recent game against Wooster, which Shaker won. The Woodbury field on which they play home games is not in good shape because of the poor weather in the past several weeks. Regardless of field conditions, however, the team is off to another outstanding start in their second year as a varsity team.

Shakerite Photo by Josh Harris

but Wooster ended up with that title.

Every non-game day, the players report after school for practice. The day after a game the players do not get in full gear. However, a typical practice consists of lots of running.

"Guys will be in motion one and a half to two hours a day," Kirtz said.

During the off-season, many players

practice at home and some go to lacrosse camps held by colleges.

Fader had high hopes for the team this year.

"I think we are going to be state champions," he said. "We have a good chance."

Hegyes also expressed his enthusiasm. "I am looking forward to working with my close team," he said.

The future looks bright for Shaker sports

BY ANTHONY SWERTLOFF
Sports Editor

Another year has passed, and another class anxiously awaits Senior Project and the graduation ceremony.

While I can try to forget my four years of academic incarceration, it would be rather unsportsmanlike not to remember the eventful athletic history of our high school since I assumed this editorship.

Last spring, the tennis team sent a bunch of members to the state tournament. Of course, this is nothing unusual for our fine tennis program.

In the fall, mens soccer made the playoffs. Football did not do well. However, the greatest achievement was the field hockey team's state championship. Excellent team and coach. Excellent season and excellent post-victory article in the Shakerite. What an autumn.

The snow came (the snow days did not...as usual) and so did respectable seasons by many of our teams. Several swimmers parted the waters to states. The hockey team finished above .500.

The mens hoop squad managed post-season play, but that arena down in Akron was no good-luck charm. Bobby Knight visited. Malcolm Sims won more awards and honors that he can possibly recall.

And, Pete Nathanson finally won the state championship in his weight class.

It is springtime again and we do have some changes to our athletic regimen.

Our taxed money has brought us a new baseball field and improved track.

The grass infield is complemented by a better backstop and longer dugout fences. A sporty snow fence has been placed in right field to stop hit balls from rolling into Aldersyde Rd. Finally, a scoreboard will grace the facilities near left field.

The track is in the process of a smooth and crackless face-lift. The sidelines of the football field will be leveled to reduce the previously deep slopes (one could sled or ski down them).

All this leads up to the gist of my article, which concerns the future of Shaker athletics. Though we do not know for sure what will happen until it happens (profound thoughts), I now choose to guess.

So, I pooled all of my intellectual and soothsaying powers together and came up with this abridged description of Shaker sports:

Football: they win one more game than the previous season for seven years. In 1999, Coach Leimsieder witnesses nine victories, thus fulfilling his goal, and retires.

Mens soccer: finally reaching the state tournament in 1997, Coach Caleb Willis' team gets shut out 11-0. By 2001, the team folds due to lack of interested athletes. Former

members Kevin Mendelsohn and Matt Fader try to rejoin high school in order to revive the program, but Principal Desadre Lawson objects.

Womens soccer: after winning the state championship in 2002, Coach Baird White soon afterwards finds out that several members have gotten sex changes in order to play for the U.S. World Cup team in the 2004 Olympics.

Field Hockey: under pressure to retire, Coach Linda Betley watches in dismay as the school's front lawn is changed into a parking lot for the 1995-1996 school year. The team loses 38 straight matches, and the administration therefore decides the program is not worth much. Betley sues and wins \$15,000,000 in psychological damages.

Womens tennis: the newly added indoor tennis courts (replacing the auditorium due to lack of histrionic interest) host the 1999 state tournament. Unfortunately, several players are caught in the halls en route to the courts without passes. They are sent to the principal and forfeit their matches, thereby unable to defend their title.

Cross country: all home meets are cancelled due to barricades one-quarter of a mile around Horseshoe Lake.

COMMENTARY

The radioactive lake forces the teams on the road in 1994 where they lose all season. In 1995, home meets are located downtown with start and finish lines at E. 55 and Prospect Ave.

Volleyball: the womens team folds but a mens club gains varsity status. They go on to win the national title under Coach Rumbaugh, only to be stopped by a Lichtensteinian team in the International Open.

Golf: the team moves into an indoor course located on the former Canterbury grounds. The team loses all of their tournaments, so lack of revenue forces the closing of this miniature golf arena.

Mens basketball: by the time 2006 rolls around, the team has failed to win any state championships, faltering in the same Akron arena year after year. Coach Bob Wonson illegally recruits 7'6" freshman Duncan Ateeze, who reportedly can palm two official balls in one hand. The four white guys on the team each sport double digit verticals, finally proving that white men can jump.

Womens basketball: with an 0-98 record over six years, the team is featured on the Jan. 7, 1998 cover of Sports Illustrated magazine. Overwhelmed with embarrassment,

Coach Lori Anthony retires and Dennis Hogue decides to fill the position...again. Too much shouting by the new coach forces him to give up his math department head title and undergo a larynx replacement.

Wrestling: Coach Tom Nathanson, a coach in placed over the courtyard to create an enormous wrestling room. Nathanson's regiment for his wrestlers includes four hours of running, 675 push-ups and crunches, as well as two hours of lecture. As the kids are overcome with exhaustion, the fed-up coach suits up and wrestles in the 150 lb. weight class. He goes on to win the state title again at age 26.

Hockey: moving to the Richfield Coliseum for home games (by 1998, the poor Coliseum is used for nothing else), the team beats University School twice in a row, a feat worthy of the front headline in the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Coach Bartley is quoted as saying, "I haven't seen a miracle like this since the parting of the Red Sea."

Swimming: with Woodbury converted into a state penitentiary, the multi-purpose room is made into a wading pool. Miscommunication caused the error, and the swim program is halted for 28 years because of no place to practice.

Baseball: in 1996, the field is turned into a barn to house the new rodeo team, one year away from varsity status. The team chooses to play home games at Woodbury because the administration building is torn down due to a four year vacancy. Coaches Adam Axler and James Luce watch as their team wins the league title against the Indians 14-1.

Lacrosse: the mens and womens teams are eventually banned in 1995 because repair costs were too high for the gym wall, notorious for its lacrosse ball holes. The student body protests and walks out for 37 days.

The sport is reinstated but all the students are forced to attend summer school to make up the lost time.

Softball: after beating the Indians in a game of baseball, the team receives ownership of the newly-built Gateway park, 11 years overdue. A record crowd of 41,000 watches the lady Raiders win the state title.

Mens tennis: replacing an aged Coach Slawson, former star Chuck Ruffing buys the Wimbledon courts for his Raider cadets. Every day the team flies their Concorde jet there for practice on a match. Unfortunately, the jetlag prevents them from winning for six years. Ruffing retires and opens his own tennis clinic in Honolulu. His business is a success until a local volcano erupts and destroys it.

Track: in 1999, two Shaker track stars break the three-minute mile barrier, only to be charged with using steroids. In an investigation, the steroids are found to be in the cafeteria food, which explains the 1125 students-turned-body builders from Shaker. In 2001 (a space odyssey), home meets are cancelled because the track has eroded and become dislevelled despite refurbishings in 1992, 1993 and 1996.

Whether or not these predictions come true is anyone's guess. As for me, I will not bother staying around to wait. That's the sports and I am outta here.

New softball club provides fun for male seniors

—COMPILED FROM PRESS RELEASE—

When confronted with the dilemma of how to spend their Sunday afternoons, a group of seniors decided that their only option was to play competitive softball.

The team began its formation when Todd Federman and Kevin Mendelsohn saw a classified ad looking for teams to participate in the Cleveland Heights mens softball league.

A mini tryout camp was held on Apr. 19 as hopeful seniors displayed their skills. Fifteen players were selected and placed on the roster of the newly formed North East Ohio Lightning.

Players are: Justin Ahern, Paco Bendezu, Matt Fader, Federman, Matt Gerhart, Geoff Grim, Jamie Katz, Brian Keating, Mike Kirchner, Mendelsohn, Lorne Novick, Chuck Ruffing, Josh Schmitz, Alan Schneider, Douwe Van Glabbeek and Caleb Willis. Team managers are Jennifer King and Lindsay Miller.

Compared to the rest of the league, the Lightning's players are relatively inexperienced. Many of the league's teams have players ages 25-30 with over five years of experience.

Despite the youthfulness of the team, Katz said this factor would actually help them.

"I think we can use our enthusiasm and



THE LIGHTNING STRIKES. After a muddy practice, team members of the North East Ohio Lightning pose for a picture with their team managers.

Photo courtesy of Todd Federman

speed to frustrate the opposition," he said.

Other people did not share the same positive attitude toward the team's future.

"Actually, [the team] won't win a game all summer," said baseball coach Buddy Longo.

League Commissioner Dave Cummings had a different opinion than Longo, believing that the team has a good chance at being successful.

The Lightning is currently sponsored by Davis Automobile Group (formerly Jaguar of Cleveland). Davis has supplied the team with softball jerseys.

The team plays doubleheaders on Sundays at 2 pm at Forest Hills Park Softball Complex.

According to Mendelsohn, the team plans to create a concession stand and sell Lightning merchandise, while drawing large crowds.

Freshman team's bond and support lend to victories

BY EMILY TROIA AND MICHAEL BECKER
Staff Reporters

Four games into the season, the freshman baseball team has much more than just three wins to brag about.

According to Coach Tom Morgan, the team has a lot of talent and "a real sense of what being a team is." He said that it should be an exciting year and spoke highly of all his players. He believed they have a solid line-up with strong pitching and fielding.

"I think that we'll have a good season because we have all the elements: good pitching, good fielding, good hitting and good coaching," said pitcher Brian Sowell.

Morgan said that the best hitters so far have been catcher Brad Forward, third basemen Mike Harris and Sean Malone, pitcher/center fielder Cullin O'Brien, pitcher Phil Rosenbaum and Sowell. Other effective batters are Huley Barneue, Courtney Ledyard, Dave Moore and Will Simon.

Pitching for the team are Forward, Malone, O'Brien, Rosenbaum and Sowell. Rosenbaum will also be making appearances with the varsity baseball team.

Complementing the above players are first basemen Jay Munyasya, second basemen Andy Leyda and Adam Stein, catcher Mike Town and outfielders Dave Dunbar, Mike Merit and Dee Scott.

According to the parents and players, they are impressed with Morgan's coaching

abilities. They said they feel confident with Morgan as their leader, referring to him as a "winning coach." A teammate said that he "never embarrasses anyone by criticizing directly."

Despite their recent success, the main problem they face is a lack of practice facilities.

"The only times these guys set foot on a field are during games," Morgan said. "That's a real disadvantage."

Other drawbacks the team faces are the part-time absence of Rosenbaum due to his varsity playing time, and the loss of injured player, Andy Pohl.

According to the team, they benefit from their bond and support of each other.

"I feel really comfortable with this team," Malone said. "You don't have to worry about not being supported by your teammates."

Morgan said he feels the "team is like a family." He said that everyone encourages each other and criticism is given constructively.

"I take their criticisms and try to improve myself," said O'Brien. "I take it as a compliment that they notice me and don't just say, 'you suck!'"

The parents, too, see the team's closeness both in practice and in the games.

According to Morgan, the team is gearing up for a tournament at Willoughby South May 16. There the team is hoping to defeat Willoughby, the only team to have defeated them this year.

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Diamond revamped; field and track to follow

BY MARK SMITH
Staff Reporter

The long wait for new athletic facilities at Shaker will soon be over.

According to athletic director Jerry Masteller and associate athletic director Joseph Katzenstein, the football field will be finished before graduation and a new resurfaced track will be constructed over the summer.

A new baseball field and lengthened lacrosse field have already been constructed. There were some minor problems with the baseball field, but both Katzenstein and Masteller seemed confident that the football field and track will be constructed to specifications and without any major problems or delays.

The baseball field, despite drainage problems, has impressed both directors and varsity coach Charles Longo.

"I'm hoping that the contractor will correct [the problems with] the baseball field," Masteller said.

Longo was impressed by the new field. "It's beautiful...it looks gorgeous," he said. "But the contractors need to fulfill their obligations."

Masteller noted that the baseball program will greatly benefit from the new field.

"With the new drainage system [that was installed], we'll be able to play games quicker," Masteller noted.

According to Masteller, a grass infield was added, the field was regraded for drainage purposes, trees were added and the field was seeded. A scoreboard will eventually be added as well, he said.

Katzenstein noted that the new lacrosse field at Woodbury, constructed over a baseball diamond, was made to fit the specifications

of the sport and that a lacrosse scoreboard will eventually be added on a wall at Woodbury.

The football field, currently being constructed, will be ready by graduation, and according to Katzenstein, the field will be smoothed out and flattened.

"New drainage will be added," he said. "The extreme crown around the field will be changed. I saw [the contractor's] grading marks for the new crown... It's going to be super out there."

The field will also be used for varsity soccer, Masteller said.

Katzenstein mentioned another change to the football field.

"The fence that went around the inner lane of the track has been [and will stay] removed," he said.

The track, Katzenstein noted, will still not, despite the construction, be large enough to hold invitationals, but will meet regulations for LEL meets. Previously, the track was so pitted that it had been considered too dangerous to hold a meet on, Katzenstein said.

To prevent injury and meet state regulations, the track will be made out of an all-weather, black, rubber texture, that Katzenstein said will be similar to the track at Cleveland Heights High School.

Masteller said that the track will be switched from English measurement to metric.

"It will be a metric track, 400 meters instead 440 [yards]," he said. "To switch [measurements] they will have to change the configuration of the track [by making it wider at the ends]."

The track, since it is being widened on the turns, will not take up any more space than the old track did, according to Katzenstein.



THE FINISHED AND THE UNFINISHED. On top, the renovated baseball field sports a grass infield, extended dugout fences and a new backstop. Below, the football field and track have been plowed over to begin massive face-lifts. Both are expected to be completed by the end of the summer.

Shakerite Photo by Josh Harris



RED RAIDER WRAP-UP

VARSITY

MENS BASEBALL

RECORD: 5-5

LEL RECORD: 4-3

LAST GAME: beat Shaw 12-4

Senior Adam Axler is leading the team with a .540 batting average.

MENS TENNIS

RECORD: 8-3

LEL RECORD: 4-0

LAST MATCH: beat Heights 3-2

First doubles team is junior Stuart Wine and freshman Ryan Smith; second doubles is senior Dan Sorin and junior Jeff Ngo

MENS TRACK

LEL RECORD: 0-3

Outstanding athletes are sophomores Ryan Holliday and Dwight Ellis.

WOMENS TRACK

RECORD: 3-0 in dual meets

LEL RECORD: 2-0-1

LAST MEET: placed 10th out of 22 teams at Eastlake North

NEXT MEET: May 1 at Mentor Relays

WOMENS SOFTBALL

RECORD: 5-3

LEL RECORD: 4-1

LAST GAME: defeated Heights 8-0

NEXT GAME: May 4 at Normandy

WOMENS LACROSSE

RECORD: 5-2

LEL RECORD: 5-2

LAST GAME: beat Wooster 11-4

MENS LACROSSE

RECORD: 3-1

LAST GAME: defeated Heights 15-6

NEXT GAME: May 2 vs. Dublin

JUNIOR VARSITY

MENS TENNIS

RECORD: 9-0

LAST MATCH: defeated Walsh 3-2

NEXT MATCH: May 4 vs. Hudson

MENS BASEBALL

RECORD: 2-5

LEL RECORD: 0-3

LAST GAME: lost to Lakewood 11-7

NEXT GAME: May 4 vs. Normandy

FRESHMAN

MENS BASEBALL

RECORD: 3-1

LAST GAME: beat University School 11-5